THE INDEPENDENT

No 3.824 IN THIS SECTION Ginola: 'I need to be loved'

Showing off 'It Girl' Tara in Paris

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INTHE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Public to choose 'people's peers' in Blair's new House of Lords

By Andrew Grice Political Editor

ORDINARY PEOPLE will sit as "people's peers" in a reformed House of Lords under sweeping proposals to be unveiled by the Covernment today.

After the 750 hereditary peers lose their right to sit and vote in the Lords next year, members of the public will be able to nominate another person to sit in the second chamber as a life peer.

The surprise move, to be announced in a White Paper today, is part of Tony Blair's drive to head off Tory allegations that the Lords will be packed with "Tony's cronies" handpicked by the Prime Minister after the hereditaries disappear from Parliament.

Those nominated as "people's peers" will be vetted by a new seven-member Appointments Commission, which will consider the special qualities they could bring to the legislative process.

Initially, the number of ordinary people joining the Lords is expected to be limited to about 20. But ministers will today argue that the symbolic move will be an "important modernising step" which ensures the House becomes more representative of ordinary people. They would sit during the transitional" House which will exist between the removal of the hereditaries and the introduction of a new, partly

elected second chamber. If the "people's peers" proved popular, the idea could form part of "stage two" of Labour's reforms and the numxber of them could be increased. In the new-look chamber, which Mr Blair hopes to get on the statute book before the next general election, the "people's peers" would sit alongside



The 22nd Lord Gray, a Conservative peer, at the House of Lords. He could be the last of his line to have a hereditary seat in the House

some members elected directnominated from the planned regional assemblies for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Allowing the public to put names forward mirrors the change to the honours list brought in by John Major, which has led to thousands of people being nominated each year.

tion for a "people's peer", Mr Blair would rubber-stamp the name and forward it to Buckingham Palace. Ministers have decided the Queen will retain the final say on who is raised to the peerage, to answer Tory claims that abolishing the hereditaries would undermine

Once the new commission the hereditary monarchy. Mr of the Commons, and Baroness Government's terms of referly by the voters and others had approved such a nomina- Blair is to give up his "sole power of patronage" to appoint peers, although he would still nominate Labour representa-

tives in the second chamber. The White Paper is part of a three-pronged plan for Lords reform to be announced today in parliamentary statements by Margaret Beckett, the Leader

Jay, Leader of the Lords.

They will set up a Royal Commission to produce proposals for "stage two". It will report by the end of this year to enable Mr Blair to fast-track his reform plan. It will be chaired by Lord Butler, who retired as cabinet secretary and head of

ence for the commission will make clear that the wholly elected Commons would remain supreme over a partly elected second chamber. The new House of Lords would get greater powers to amend leg-islation but it would not be able to block financial measures the civil service a year ago. The

The Bill to scrap the 800year-old rights of the hereditaries to sit and vote in the Lords will reveal that the 750 peers who inherited their titles will also be deprived of their "club rights" - such as free parking and use of the restau-Palace of Westminster. "It will be the end of using Parlia- of the hereditaries.

THE PROPOSALS

■ Hereditary peers to lose their rights to sit and vote in the Lords

■ People's peers to be appointed from suggestions by the public

■ Royal Commission to report within one year ■ Stage two reform – partly elected upper house - to be law before the election

An independent body will vet the creation of peers. including crossbenchers to stamp on 'cronyism'

ment as a gentleman's club and living like a lord at the taxpayers' expense," one minister

The Bill is expected to be amended during its passage through the Lords so that it will grant a temporary reprieve to 91 of the hereditaries until "stage two" takes effect. This formed the compromise plan negotiated secretly with Mr Blair by Lord Cranborne, former Tory leader in the Lords, which led to him being sacked by William Hague.

Ministers are dangling the Cranborne proposals as a "carrot" before Tory peers in the suade them not to use their majority to delay the Bill for a further year.

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader in the Upper House, said that the Opposition would oppose the measure vigorously in both Houses because it was a "bad" and "half-baked" Bill. But Lord Strathclyde said rants and tea-rooms at the the Tories would back the Cranborne proposals to save some

Nato ultimatum for Serbs | Disgraced Aitken faces jail

AS FIGHTING continued in BY RUPERT CORNWELL Kosovo, with Serb forces pounding villages once again, Nato's two top commanders told Slobodan Milosevic yesterday he faced the threat of air strikes if he did not stick to the October ceasefire agreement. They also demanded full access for war crimes investigators to

probe last week's massacre of ethnic Albanians in Racak. General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme commander, and General Klaus Naumann,

chairman of the alliance's military committee, were due to hold a second round of talks in Belgrade last night with the Yugoslav President before reporting back to Nato ambassadors in Brussels - at which point a decision on the use of force could be taken.

In Washington, senior offi-

still in force, and that Nato attacks could start "within days". Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that the British component of the force could be ready with-

The Yugoslav government announced that William Walker, the American head of the international monitoring mission cials warned that the "activa- in Kosovo, could stay in the tion order" which brought the country an extra 24 hours, after alliance to the brink of air originally being ordered to

in 96 hours.

strikes three months ago was leave by today. Otherwise there was no immediate hint of breakthrough in the Belgrade talks, while Serb security forces and ethnic Albanians allowed no let-up in their conflict.

Yugoslav army artillery continued to pound the hillsides around Racak, scene of the slaughter of 45 Albanians last weekend. One Serb policeman was killed and two were wounded in separate clashes with the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Villagers cower, page 13

THE FORMER cabinet minister By KIM SENGUPTA Jonathan Aitken could face a jail term after pleading guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday to perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Aitken, once tipped as a future Conservative leader and prime minister, became the first former cabinet minister this century to be convicted of serious crimes after admitting he lied under oath. He also admitted that he drew up a false statement for his daughter, Vic- stay at the Paris Ritz in Sep-

toria, to sign to support his lies He will be sentenced in June. The maximum sentence for perverting the course of justice is life imprisonment and for

perjury seven years. The charges relate to the defamation action Aitken brought against The Guardian and Granada TV's World in Action programme over claims that a £1,000 hotel bill for his

wealthy Saudi contact.

At the time, he vowed: "If it falls to me to start a fight to cut out the cancer of bent and twisted journalism in our country with the simple sword of truth and the trusty shield of British fair play, so be it. I am ready for the fight."

The libel action collapsed and Aitken was charged with the serious criminal offences which led to yesterday's case. Aitken, a former chief sec-

minister for defence procurement, also pleaded not guilty yesterday to two further charges of perverting the course of justice and conspiring with his ex-wife, Lolicia, and another person to pervert the course of justice. He was given conditional bail

Aitken also faces civil litigation as result of his failed libel action which has left him with £2m in legal debts to The Guardian and Granada TV.

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needn't be daylight robbery

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BURTHAUTHE SYSTEM GIVE MAXIMUM

IN *THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

My twenty-four year-old son still lives at home. He doesn't work and I'm scared he has discovered drugs. Should I kick him out?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE'S DILEMMAS

EFILM: ANTHONY QUINN REVIEWS HILARY AND JACKIE **PLUS EDUCATION** LAW & FAST TRACK

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Concern over inflation rise

INFLATION CLIMBED above its 2.5 per cent target last month for the first time since August. The figures sent a ripple of panic through industry and unions, for fear that they would persuade the Bank of England not to cut interest

The underlying rate of inflation edged up to 2.6 per cent in December Price increases on the high street ahead of Christmas were partly to blame, and so were bigger than normal increases in the price of potatoes and other season-

Despite the unexpected increase in target inflation, John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress. immediately called for a 1 per cent reduction in interest rates. "The Bank should not be deflected from its top priority of restoring industrial confidence," he said.

Ian Peters, deputy director of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Our surveys show members fail to see any significant inflationary pressures. We will look to the Bank

Noon today

BY DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

ultimately towards the European level." The Engineering Employers' Federation, reporting a slowdown in pay settlements in the industry in December, agreed.

Separately, a survey yesterday showed a modest improvement in consumer confidence this month, although it often picks up after Christmas. Figures for gross domestic product (GDP) in the final quarter of 1998, due on Friday, will be a key influence on the Bank's next decision.

Analysts in the City stuck with their view that homebuyers will enjoy further rate reductions, perhaps as early as next month but more likely after a short pause.

The rise in inflation could prove temporary, as recent ears have seen a pattern of bigger price rises in December followed by bigger cuts in the January sales.

The headline rate of inflation, the figure used in many pay



deals, edged down from 3 per A road roller yesterday destroying counterfeit software, worth millions of pounds, cent to 2.8 per cent this month. at the Microsoft head office in Reading

Lawrence officer to face tribunal

THE POLICE officer who was second-in-command of the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation will face a disciplinary tribunal despite announcing his retirement, Scotland Yard said last night.

A spokesman said Detective Inspector Ben Bullock will go before a tribunal on 22 March, six weeks before his retirement date. He will be charged with seven counts of neglect of duty. The announcement was seen as a response to the outcry to news last week that Det Insp Bullock had submitted his retirement papers. He was the only serving officer that the Police Complaints Authority recommended for disciplinary action.

It is unprecedented for a tribunal date to be set so soon

BY KATHY MARKS

after a PCA recommendation. The Metropolitan Police is thought to have accelerated the process to satisfy demands for some kind of public retribution over the Lawrence case.

Det Insp Bullock, 49, is to retire on 2 May, after 30 years' service. If found guilty, he could be suspended or dismissed before then. It is understood his pension rights, thought to be worth £25,000 a year, would not

Last week, Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, were said to be devastated at the prospect of every officer in the investigation escaping punishment. All the other senior officers have retired and are thus, according to the law as it stands, immune from disciplinary action.

The PCA called last week for the law to be changed. Jack Straw, Home Secretary, said he would consider recommendations by the Lawrence inquiry, due to issue its report next week.

The Yard spokesman said police had never ruled out disciplinary proceedings, despite Det Insp Bullock's impending retirement. "The charges against Mr Bullock have not been dropped. There is still something that can be done, which is to hold the tribunal be-

fore he leaves his job."

The Yard and the PCA 10 months to agree to the vi ing of the charges against D Insp Bullock. The PCA him in March last year that was recommending action against him. He denies any glect of duty.

In a statement, Scotlar Yard said: "As was made clear last Thursday, 14 January, the Metropolitan Police Service will continue with the disciplinary process against DI Ben Bullock even though he has given notice of his intention and entitlement to retire ... The tribunal to hear the charges of neglect of duty ... has now been

set for March 22 this year." The force said that it had informed Det Insp Bullock of the tribunal, made up of two PCA representatives and a senior Metropolitan Police officer.

It said that force solicitors were currently preparing the papers for the case and these will be served on Det Insp Bullock shortly. Det Insp Bullock will then have 14 days to respond to the charges, Scotland Yard said. It has said it has no option but to accept his retirement under current disciplinary regulations. despite the controversy sur-

rounding the case. Stephen Lawrence was murdered in 1993 in south-east London. Five white youths have been accused of the killing but none has been successfully prosecuted.

Temperature, °C Wind speed, mph

FORECAST

General situation: Rain in the south and south-east of England will clear away only slowly and it will gradually become brighter. The rest of England and Wales will have surny spells and showers, most of the showers in the west where they will be heavy this afternoon with the risk of hail and thunder. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will also have some thundery showers with show over the mountains and hall possible elsewhere. Eastern Scotland will have better surny

Cent S & SE England, London, E Anglia: Outbreaks of rain will slowly m away to allow brighter weather to move in from the north-west. A fresh so westerly wind, Max temp 10-12C (50-54F). Midlands, E England, Channel Is: Any early rain will clear away to leave some sunny spells for the afternoon. However, there could be the odd isolated shower. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F).

NW 6 SW 6 Cent N England, NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man, Wa It will be a day of sunshine and showers. The showers will be heaviest and frequent in the west where they may be thundery with hall. A moderate so westerly wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). N ireland: Sunny spells will be spoiled by showers. Some of the showers will be heavy and of hail. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

SM 6 NW Scotland, Glasgow, N 6 W lates: Frequent, heavy and thundery showers, some of which will be wintry, especially over the hills. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F). SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Early sunny spells with the risk light shower later. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

OUTLOOK

Showery rain and seet will move across Scotland and Northern Ireland tomor-row. The rest of the UK will be mainly dry and bright. Rain will affect Scotland and Northern Ireland on Friday. Elsewhere it will be dry with sunny spells.

struction work. Until 28th February. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Vladuct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Visduct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway reduced to 2 larses southbound. Until 21st November 2000.

HIGH TIDES 4.4 5.5 6.6 3.9 AIR QUALITY Today's readings SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good Good SUN & MOON

LIGHTING UP

WEATHERLINE

followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

gdon, Oxfordshire The Upper Reaches

Banbury, Oxfordshire Whately Hall

Box Hill, Surrey The Burford Bridge

Chester, Cheshire The Blossoms Hotel

Dartmouth, Devon The Dart Marina

Dunster, Somerset The Luttrell Arms

Exeter, East Exeter The Southgate

Kingston, Surrey The Kingston Lodge

Lincoln, Lincolnshire The White Hart

Mariborough, Wiltshire The Castle & Ball

Farnham, Surrey The Bush Hotel

Dorking, Sorrey The White Horse

Cheitenham, Gloucestershire Oveen's Hotel

Christchurch, Dorset The Avanmouth Hatel

Dovedale, Derbyshire The Peveril of the Peak

Hereford, Hereford & Worcs. The Green Dragon

Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire The White Horse

Camberley, Surrey Frimley Hall

Bath, Avon The Francis

0.01 0.04 0.1 0.18 10 50

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

MANY PARTS of Britain are still facing the threat of flooding following renewed heavy rain overnight with the Environment Agency keeping in force almost 100 flood warnings on rivers in England and Wales.

There are seven amber and 86 yellow warnings in place, mainly in the Midlands, Wales and the south-east, with the River Severn posing the greatest threat, mainly in Bewdley in Hereford and Worcester.

£126

£136

£108

£100

£96

£98

£110

£92



THE WORLD

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Man detained by police dies

A BLACK man who collapsed By JASON BENNETTO shortly after being handcuffed while naked and put in a van by eight police officers has died.

Roger Sylvester, 30, had been on a life-support machine since his detention in Tottenham, north London, nine days ago. It was disclosed yesterday that he died on Monday.

His family issued a statement yesterday saying that they did not accept that Mr Sylvester's detention by the Metropolitan Police was necessarily lawful or that officers treated him with proper care. An outside police force -Essex - has been brought in to

investigate the case, which will be overseen by the Police Complaints Authority. Mr Sylvester was detained after police were called to a disturbance outside a block of flats in Tottenham on 11 January. Police say that officers in

banging on the door of a neigh-

bour in an "aggressive and vo-

ciferous manner".

Crime Correspondent

"Prior to police attending, the man had been rolling about on the floor in the garden area in an agitated state," said a Scotland Yard spokeswoman.

The man was handcuffed and detained under the Mental Health Act. He was taken in a police van to St Ann's Hospital, north London, to be assessed by a mental health practitioner. The police spokeswoman said: "While at the hospital the man suffered respiratory failure and was resuscitated." He was later taken to the Whittington Hospital, also in north London, and placed on a ventilator.

The family's statement said: "The family now awaits the outcome of the post-mortem. and the police investigation of their complaint. The family does not accept Roger's dethree cars arrived just before tention was necessarily lawful 10pm and found a naked man or that he was treated with due care by the police. These and other matters require detailed and robust investigation."



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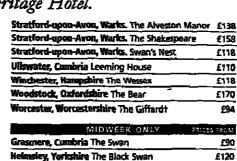
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Football tycoon sues 'wasteful' son

Britain's richest men, is suing his son over alleged financial irregularities at the football club on which he once admitted spending his children's inheritance. Lawyers acting for the owner of Wolverhampton Wanderers have filed papers relating to the movement of three sums of money totalling £237,400 while his son Jonathan was club chairman.

SIR JACK HAYWARD, one of By JOHN WILLCOCK AND STEVE BOGGAN

> The family feud is the latest manifestation of Sir Jack's passion for Wolves. Since 1990, when the multi-millionaire who is listed as Britain's 125th richest man bought the Midlands club for £2.1m, he has spent £40m on new stands and players in an attempt to fulfil his dream of winning the FA Cup

before he dies. Papers filed at man of the club shortly after he blackmail. Money has been the High Court show that Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (1986) Ltd. Wolverhampton Wanderers Properties Ltd and WW (1990) Ltd are suing Jonathan Hayward, aged 31, James Nicholas Stones, a solicitor, and his firm,

Wiggin and Co. Sir Jack is chairman and president of Wolves. Sir Jack made Jonathan, the younger of his two sons, chair-

autumn of 1997 when Jonathan was demoted to deputy chairman. He resigned from the club at the end of the 1997-98 season.

Sir Jack shocked television viewers when he rounded on his son and Mark McGhee, the former club manager, last year, shouting: "They think Golden Tit - me - will go on forever. It's gust 1995, "approving the re-

bought it, but relations between wasted." Jonathan refused to the two have cooled since the discuss the litigation vesterday at his farm in Tweed, Northumberland. When asked whether he was on speaking terms with his father, he replied: "I don't want to make any comment at all."

The writ claims that three resolutions "purportedly passed" at board meetings in March 1997, May 1995 and Au-

[money], are of no legal effect." It alleges that the repayments of £100,000 in March 1997, £37,400 in May 1995 and £100,000 in August 1995 - were made "without legal authority". Further, Sir Jack's legal team argue

meetings relating to the repayments "are of no legal effect". They are demanding that Jonathan accounts for the

that resolutions at three board

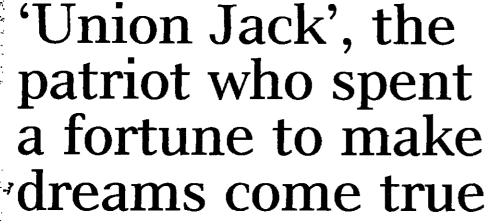
benefits and profits derived therefrom" and they are seeking damages and compensation

for "breaches of fiduciary duty". Jonathan Hayward and James Stones were directors of the club at the time the movements of money were authorised and it is understood they are to contest Sir Jack's claims. But a full explanation in court is not expected for several months.

tion from Wolves as to the nature of the alleged irregularities. The club said Sir Jack - who is at present in the country - had authorised staff to "make absolutely no comment whatsoever". Wiggin and Co, too, refused to comment, although Mr Stones, its senior tax partner, said: "Both Jonathan Hayward and I have a complete answer to the allegations.



'Union Jack', the patriot who spent a fortune to make



JACK HAYWARD's obsession with Wolverhampton Wanderers was kindled when, as a boy of seven, he would sneak for free into the ground just 600 yards from his family home.

Today, his outlay on the club stands at £42m and he flies from his mansion in the Bahamas to every home game.

chairman who is more interested in the club's share price than its place in the league. His is a true passion, born of an ambition to see Wolves win the FA Cup and promotion to the Premiership before he dies.

But even to those who have vitnessed his obsession, The Independent's revelation that. through the club, he is suing his son, Jonathan, 31, over alleged financial irregularities will come as a surprise - raising questions about the future of

In spite of the enormous spending on the club ground, Molineux, and on players, Wolves have failed to make Sir Jack's dreams come true. His elder son, Richard, 46, remains on the Board following Jonathan's

resignation last year. Sir Jack is held in high affection by the Wolves fans who much regret that the team has

not been able to repay his generosity with good performances on the pitch.

Mark McGhee, the former club manager sacked by Sir Jack, once said: "Sir Jack looks from the supporters' perspective. He's entitled to say: 'Hey, what I believe.

"I can't afford to be sentimental but I know what Utopia Bull [Wolves' best-known strik-

and handing the Cup to Sir

It is a dream on which Sir Jack will spare no expense - at times to the chagrin of his family. Once, when his daughter, Sue, expressed concern over the £800,000 purchase of a player, he chuckled and said: "She can see her inheritance going

Any kind of footballing success would now be a crowning achievement for a man who would be for this club - Steve made £175m by capitalising on the growing popularity of the er) scoring the winning goal at Bahamas and helping it grow as Wembley, climbing the steps a shipping centre and an off-



The Bahamas, home to 'Union Jack Hayward'



shore tax haven - he has even British." Following heart concerned over the effect of the based the club's holding company there. Sir Jack, who was knighted

in 1986, has been chairman of the Grand Bahama Development Company Ltd and Freeport Commercial and Industrial Ltd since 1976. He also has interests in electrical and RAF and is a life vice-president of the Maritime Trust.

Sir Jack lives in an opulent house in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, with his wife, Jean, and also has homes in Surrey and Inverness. His Scottish place - a 14,000-acre estate - came with the title of the Laird of Dunmaglass.

In spite of his decision to reside on Grand Bahama – for business as well as tax reasons - he likes to portray himself as a great patriot, hence his nickname "Union Jack Hayward". His love of Britain extends to promoting the use of red phone boxes, buses and post boxes on the island.

In Who's Who, he lists his recreations as: "Promoting British endeavours, mainly in sport; watching cricket, amateur dramatics; preserving the British landscape, keeping all things bright, beautiful and

surgery two years ago, he row on his health. Those who blamed his problems on a love of British food. "The cholesterol has built up over the years, I'm afraid," he said. "I'm very fond of fish and chips and big, marbled steaks with all the fat

His family members will be

know them said that Jonathan would go out of his way to be good to his father, to the point of being overly deferential. Following his departure from the club, he prefers to spend time at his farm in Northumberland

and is playing no further part

in Sir Jack's dream. A business associate said: "They had a good relationship but it has been badly affected by all this Jonathan's decision to leave... I don't know how they will sur-

to achieve it grows ever more Tve not got much time to go," he said last year. "My ambition is to lift the FA Cup. vive this, but one wonders what will happen to the club after Sir Soon I won't be strong enough to hold the bloody thing." Jack passes away."

In the meantime, Sir Jack's

dream is as strong and obses-

sive as ever and his haste

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Mary Chipperfield beat young chimpanzee until it screamed'

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, one of the best-known circus animal trainers in the world, beat a baby chimpanzee until it screamed in pain, a court was told vesterday.

Ms Chipperfield, who described herself as the chimp's "mother", also made a sick elephant perform pirouettes and hit a camel on its stomach with a walking stick. Magistrates at Andover in

Hampshire were told that Ms Chipperfield who, with her husband, Richard Cawley, faces cruelty to animals charges, did not believe the beatings had harmed the animals and did not consider them to be gratuitous.

Charles Gabb, for the prosecution, outlined a catalogue of neglect allegedly carried out employees, Stephen Gills,

denied 21 charges under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act. Her 64-year-old husband, the former manager of Longleat Safari Park, pleaded not guilty to seven charges between October 1997 and January 1998.



Mary Chipperfield allegedly goading a camel with a stick in a video shot by the charity Animal Defenders

The couple face a maximum of six months in jail or a £5,000 fine. Video evidence, which was by the couple and one of their secretly obtained by two members of the charity Animal Defenders, showed an elephant Ms Chipperfield, 61, has being beaten with a spade and an iron bar and the camel, Jasbathed or taken outside. min, being hit with the wooden

walking stick. Ms Chipperfield, who gave her name in court as Mrs Čawley, allegedly carried out the attacks on Trudi the baby chim-

panzee, and the camel while Mr Gills, 65, beat an elephant called Tembo so hard that the bar broke. Trudi was left to sleep alone in a dog box in a dark barn with no toys, while elephants at the farm in Middle

Wallop, Hampshire, were never

"On the film it is not hard to make out the screams of the chimpanzee and it is not hard to make out the white stick Mrs Cawley uses to beat it - and it

she says to her," Mr Gabb told the court. "There was no need to beat it just because it would not go into its cage. Mrs Cawley can be heard callously saying 'You can bloody cry'." Two ciously kicking the small chimp.

is not hard to make out what

There were gasps from the public gallery as the video was played in the courtroom. Mr Gills was shown beating elephants with a broom and smashing a chicken's head against the wall of a barn.

elephant 12 times with a large metal rod around its legs and backs and shouting: "You'll never learn." The court heard that the videos were made during a

wider investigation by the char-

ity into how circus animals

He was also seen striking an

were treated. The charges are the latest in a series of misfortunes for the family. Last year, Ms Chipperfield's son, Richard, was savaged by a tiger in Florida and Nigel Wesson, an employee, had his arm bitten off at the training centre in Chipping

Norton, Oxfordshire.

The case continues

Move to thwart abattoir strike

BY BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

THE GOVERNMENT is secretly attempting to undermine a threatened strike by abattoir inspectors which would have an immediate impact on the supply of fresh meat.

Nearly 1,000 officials are thought to have voted 'yes' in a ballot, the result of which will be announced today. They are in the Unison public-service union, one of the Labour's biggest financial backers.

The agency employing the inspectors has sent out a memo to council chief executives urging them to divert environmental health experts to abattoirs if there is a strike. The letter, signed by Johnston Mc-Neill, chief executive of the Meat Hygiene Service, emphasised that slaughterhouses must not produce meat for human consumption where there is inadequate cover by agency staff.

Unison is planning one, two and three-day stoppages, which would have a substantial and immediate effect on the amount of fresh meat on supermarket shelves. Unison is urging its members in environmental health departments at councils to ignore the strikebreaking plea from the Gov-ernment. Some 75 per cent of the inspectors have already voted to reject a 4-per-cent pay offer and registered their readiness to take industrial action.

The stoppages would come at a particularly embarrassing time for ministers. European Commission experts are making spot-checks on abattoirs to police the lifting of the ban on British beef in Europe.

Management has imposed the pay increase on staff, who are insisting on a 5-per-cent rise. Their anger is partly fuelled by the alleged violence and intimidation inflicted on them by slaughterhouse employees keen to keep production





Francesca Zambello (left), the sought-after producer, and John Tomlinson (right) playing Boris Godunov in her English National Opera production

Royal Opera woos feisty New Yorker to help revive fortunes

AMERICAN OPERA producer By DAVID LISTER Francesca Zambello is being Arts News Editor targeted by the Royal Opera House to be its new artistic director. The feisty 41-year-old New Yorker has been approached by the ROH management to work alongside its new executive director Michael Kaiser, also an American, to turn round the fortunes of the troubled institution.

If Ms Zambello agrees to

two Americans, an indication of the change of ethos and approach that chairman of the ROH. Sir Colin Southgate, wants to instigate.

Mr Kaiser, known in the US

been at the ROH for three months and has already set in for the post of artistic director. motion various changes, income to the ROH it will be the cluding expanding the base of first time that a British national corporate and individual sup-refused to take up the position

and drawing up a new ticketlower prices at weekends. Although Sir Colin said last

year that an artistic director would lead the managerial structure, Mr Kaiser has made it clear that he will serve as a as "the turnaround king" has joint number one but not as a number two. One early choice Sarah Billinghurst of the Metropolitan Opera in New York,

Zambello is happy with the sorgsky's Boris Godunov on pricing structure with much arrangement and would not want to extend her remit from for ENO, rehearsing both prothe artistic side, nor necessarily to be seen as the most senior figure at the ROH.

Insiders say a Zambello/ Kaiser ticket could proceed without any bickering.

Her work is already well known to British opera and theatregoers. Her flamboyant production for The Royal Opera of The Bartered Bride is cur-

But it is understood that Ms and she recently put Mus- alists, some authoritarians, stage at the London Coliseum ductions at the same time.

She also directed the revival of the play Lady In The Dark at the National Theatre last year. She has a reputation for handling large casts well and inspiring lovalty.

Ms Zambello, who speaks French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian, said in a recent interview: 'I am a nurturer. Some directors are conceptu-

some work through total democracy and discovery. "What I try to do is ensure

that everyone involved makes a personal investment and is valued for it." Ms Zambello could expect to

be paid the same salary as Mr Kaiser. He is understood to be earning £115,000 a year with the Royal Opera House. A Royal Opera House

spokeswoman would only comment: "We are searching very journalism," said a senior Exactively for an artistic director" | press executive.

Editor loses job after expose

BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor AND GARY FINN

THE EDITOR of the Express on Sunday that authorised a controversial article about the private life of the former Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson, during a trip to Brazil, has lost

Amanda Platell, executive editor of the Express on Sunday, approved a story headlined "Brazilian student who is Mandelson's close friend" in November The story prompted the former cabinet minister to contact Ms Platell's boss. Express editor Rosie Boycott, who is also a friend of Mr Mandel-The four most senior exec-

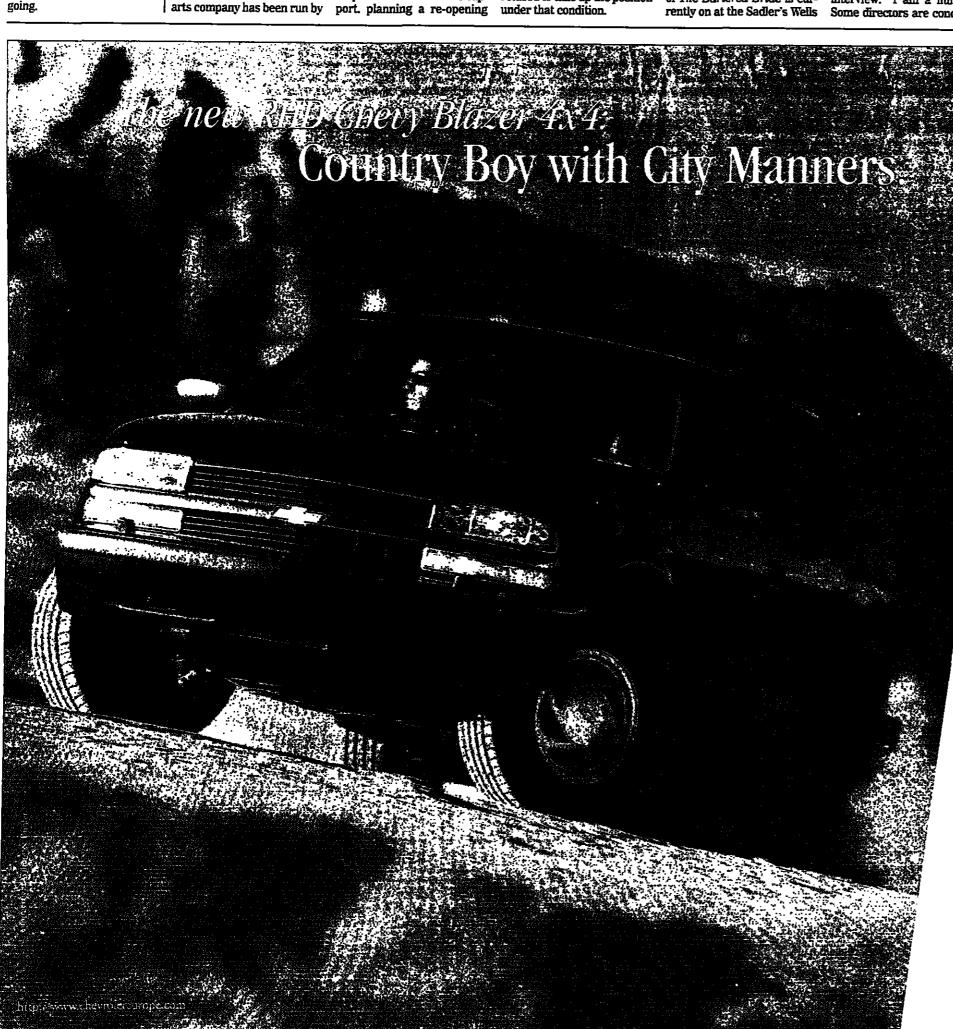
utives on the title could all depart because of the affair.

In response to the bloodletting at the newspaper, Conservative MP Julie Kirkbride tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons today outlining opposition to what she calls Mr Mandelson's "unacceptable pressure on the editors of the Express on Sunday to water down the story." The motion also refers to

other alleged behind-thescenes manipulation by Mr Mandelson in which a senior journalist for *The Sun* was sacked after making comments about the Hartlepool MP on The Express denied yester-

day that the article about Mandelson's friend, Reinaldo Avila da Silva, was connected to changes in the Sunday title.

However senior sources on the title confirmed that relations between Ms Boycott and Ms Platell had been strained. "Rosie and the paper gave assurances to the Press Complaints Commission that an interview with and photographs of Reinaldo had been given freely. That proved to be incorrect. That was not good



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IE INDEPENDENT

loses job I don't blame people for shunning the local comprehensive, says Blair

THE PRIME Minister yesterday provoked teachers' fury when he attacked inner-city schools and said he understood why some parents refused to send their children

to the local comprehensive. In a clear reference to his own decision to send his children six miles across London to high-performing comprehensives, he said some innercity schools were so bad that he did not blame parents for "making other arrange-

Heads said that was encouragement to parents to desert the state sector for private schools and teachers accused him of "self-justifica-

The Blairs' decision to send their two sons, Euan and Nicholas, to the London Oratory, a Catholic grant-maintained school, in west London, caused controversy when it was revealed four years ago. Last week, Downing Street announced that their daughter, Kathryn, will attend the Sacred Heart High School all girls' Catholic comprehensive, near the Oratory, from Sep-

Yesterday Mr Blair said in an interview with BBC radio: "We simply have to bring about a different type of culture in the way we look at education where we don't have the levels of failure that we have in the

"When I look at some of the

BY JUDETH JUDD **Education Editor**

wonder parents feel they have to move out or to make other arrangements for their children. Every single child that is denied a proper education is a child that is not given a proper start in life."

Later Mr Blair continued his attack on bad schools when he joined David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, at a conference of head teachers on the Government's Green Paper on the future of the teaching profession.

He acknowledged that pupils' social background influenced schools' perfor-mance but added: "We all know schools in exactly the same social position which differ widely in their perfor-

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We will never solve the problem of inner-city schools by encouraging parents to vote with their feet and desert inner-city schools for the private sector or comprehensives in more favoured areas."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "There is an element of self-justification in Mr Blair's words. He doesn't understand the varied and complex difficulties external to the school faced by teachers

teachers are aimed at convincing the public that teachers are not as deserving as

"Instead he insists on destabilising existing teachers and discouraging young people from entering the profession, putting children's education in ieopardy."

Margaret Tulloch, of the parents' pressure group the Campaign for State Education, said: "He does not speak for all middle-class inner-city parents. Some are very happy with inner-city schools."

The Prime Minister warned heads at the conference in

The Green Paper proposes that good teachers and schools should get more money and that all teachers should be appraised annually

Mr Blair told the heads: "The public are prepared for us to make an investment in education but they want higher standards in return."

Challenged by his audience about the divisive effect of performance-related pay, he

Chelmsford, Essex: "I know from my own experience in my constituency and with my own children that there is insufficient understanding in this country of the fundamental importance of getting the education system right. If we have a second-class education system we will have a secondclass country."

Tony Blair and David Blunkett at Moulsham School, Chelmsford, yesterday where they were addressing head teachers Andrew Buurman ity that there were some good

teachers.

Britain educated the top argued that the Government 20 per cent of children very did not want to create divi- well and the top 5 per cent "His persistent attacks on sions but had to face the real- extremely well. Further down, about the proposals. Kevin without using performance- James' primary school in Har-

teachers and some not so good children not getting the education they deserved.

Heads welcomed the priority and commitment given to schools but had reservations have improved in this country

there were large numbers of Arkell, of Boswells compre-related pay." The proportion low, questioned whether there hensive school in Chelmsford. said: "They run the risk of putting staff against staff. A terrifying number of schools

of pupils at his own school getting five good grades at GCSE had nearly doubled during the last six years.

Alan Wright, head of St

were enough staff in smaller schools to cope with the new appraisal arrangements, particularly when so many other

Tohave

New Labour pledges loyalty to working-class roots

TONY BLAIR has hit back an- BY ANDREW GRICE grily at criticism that Labour is AND JOHN RENTOUL now a "middle-class party" which has turned its back on its

traditional supporters. The Prime Minister said: "It suits our critics, inside and outside our ranks, to suggest New Labour is somehow a recent invention of a metropolitan-based party ... It is just not true." Mr Blair angered Labour

Britain's old establishment was being replaced by a new meritocratic middle class, including millions who traditionally might see themselves as working class. The MPs saw this as a further sign that Labour was modernise to modernise our elite, foisted on an unwilling moving away from its working-

lucky enough to represent," said Mr Blair, MP for Sedgefield. "It derives from an acceptance that we had lost touch with the needs and ambitions of the people we sought to represent ... While retaining our traditional values, our party had to country."

Mr Blair's counter-attack "New Labour has its roots came in the foreword to a pam- phlet: "New Labour is not a New Labour and came from ex- a "settled environment" in MPs last week by saying that solidly in the traditional Labour phlet, The Roots of New

Membership rose from 600 in 1983, when Mr Blair became its candidate, to 2,000 after longwinded meetings were replaced by social events and barbecues. Phil Wilson, who was mem-

bership officer of the Sedgefield party and now works at Labour's Milibank headquarters in London, said in his pam-

the Sedgefield Labour Party. something foreign which has been grafted on to the Labour Party. The roots of New Labour can be found in traditional hard-working communities.

"In Sedgefield, we had to appeal to our potential supporters in the private estates, if we were to help our traditional supporters living in council estates ... It was the genesis of objectives. There needed to be product of think-tanks and periencing the sharp end of which the party and the Gov-

Labour, charting the growth of focus groups. Neither is it Thatcherism. It did not mean ernment worked together. finition of an active Labour selling out on our principles and Labour must be more than "an values.'

> However, Mr Wilson admitted Labour had "a problem" after a slight drop in membership during the past year, from 405.238 to 391.771.

He acknowledged that maintaining a united party might be the most difficult of Labour's

organisational structure which delivers elections"; it must be "a living, breathing entity".

"If the Labour Party is to succeed during the next century, modernisation will not end with Tony Blair. It must maintain its momentum. He realises that leaders come and go but the Labour Party goes on," said Mr Wilson.

Mr Blair agreed that the de-

member - someone who attends meetings - is wrong. Community work, such as running a youth club or being a school governor, "is just as valuable to the party," said Mr Wilson. Rejecting allegations that Mr Blair is a "control freak," Mr Wilson insisted the party's new policymaking process was more open and democratic.

Blair a threat to Britain? Anne McElvoy, Review, page 3

Ditch twin-set and pearls and be brassy says Hague

Chief Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE last night broke the mould of the Major years by calling on the Tory Party to embrace "brassy" life in today's Britain of Eastenders, MTV, and urban culture. The Conservative party

leader sought to break away from the past, and to modernise the image of the Tory Party by challenging Tony Blair's belief in the "Third Way" with a competing vision of "the British

Where his predecessor had conjured up images of a past Britain, of sleepy village, polite manners, and friendly vicars, Mr Hague tried to jolt the Tories into the present of hig industrial cities, housing estates - "the Britain which watches MTV and Changing Rooms, and which is fascinated by Ricky and



told by John Major 22-4-93: "Fifty years from now, Britain will still be the country of long shadows on country grounds, green suburbs, dog lovers and pools fillers and as George Orwell said, 'old

warm beer, invincible maids cycling to Holy Communion through the morning mist'."

Describing the shift as a Tories of the twin-set and pearls image, Mr Hague - once pilloried for wearing a baseball "huge cultural change for the Conservative Party", he told an audience in London that they

camp with his name on it - said it was a multi-ethnic Britain where hundreds of thousands celebrate it."

go to the Notting Hill Carnival. "It is my profoundest belief that if the Conservative Party is not in touch with the identity and values of the British people then it cannot be

The Tory vision told by William Hague 19-1-99:

Conservatives must

embrace Britain as it is today and will be tomorrow. Not just the sleepy villages, polite manners, friendly vicars and novels of Scott and Austen. But also the Britain of industrial cities and housing estates...

authentically Conservative." He warned: "We must never be the nostalgia party. We must do more than grudgingly accept Britain here and now: we must

The Conservatives must "shed the image that we are nothing more than a party obsessed with economics, and take our rightful place as the champion of the British Way".

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Hollywood is providing the lines but not the substance

WARREN BEATTY'S new satir- By Tom Sutcliffe ical comedy about American political life, Bulworth, begins with a scene in which a senator listens to his campaign stractions about the national commercials, all of which begin with the same vacuous invocation of moment. "We stand at the doorstep of a new millennium," he declares, before identifying the native handouts, naturally enterprising and self-reliant.

In his speech yesterday at the Centre for Policy Studies, William Hague had tinkered a little with the opening for local tastes - "I want to talk to you about Britain," he said, "Britain, now at the cusp of a speech that followed had more fans but Julian Barnes' re- from? Another Hollywood Mr Hague thought that would than a few unadulterated Bulcent novel England, England satire might offer an answer. In be a little too close to home.

worth moments - passages in which sweeping, emotional abcharacter were enlisted for a particular political end.

had to focus on the Britain

where more people went on hol-

iday to Florida than Butlins, -

"urban, ambitious, sporty, fash-

ion-conscious, multi-ethnic,

brassy, self-confident and in-

Clearly anxious to rid the

As politics, the speech was on of English nationalism". straightforward. As social commentary, however, it was at turned out not to be so innotimes positively surreal - a cently patriotic - a cover for the virtues of the American people: strange blend of National Ge-instinctively hostile to welfare ographic prose ("We are re-rather than aB&B. And by the served, polite, private") and end of Mr Hague's address. glaring internal contradictions.

Hague, who recently stayed at too - now they are a brassy, flag of St George, talked apmen at the Notting Hill carni-English consciousness" is turning first to the sports emerging - for which he calls pages of their newspapers. new millennium" - but the in evidence not only football

(which would have provided Being There, Peter Sellers him with a far more acidic rosplayed a simpleton who rises to

ter of national characteristics had he troubled to open it). But just a little later he was talking darkly about "the first stirrings of the sleeping drag-

Perhaps that Essex hotel that "reserved, polite, private" Early in the speech Mr people have strangely altered a hotel in Essex which flew the noisy crowd, snogging policeprovingly of how "a distinct val, holidaying in Florida and

Where does he get all this

the presidency of the US because his naïve remarks about gardening are interpreted as metaphorical pronouncements.

idence for his speculations. "I

Mr Hague clinches the par-

allel when he supplies the ev-

recently watched The Godfather again," he says. "I was struck by how many cousins Michael Corleone has, and how many of them join the family business." That's the Italians for you then, but us? "In Britain families tend to be much smaller. One of our most popular sit-Point Four Children," he contimes sagely. An even more popular comedy is Keeping Up Appearances, but maybe

Dentists earning £200,000 on NHS

THERE HAS been a boom in the number of dentists boosting their incomes from the NHS to six-figure sums by treating scores of patients every day.

Official figures show almost 500 dentists earned more than £200,000 from the NHS between 1997 and 1998 compared with 20 between 1990 and 1991. Their earnings are more than twice the average NHS income for dentists, before deductions for

The boom in high-earners is the case of Melvyn Megitt, the dentist accused of providing unnecessary treatment to children and adults in Manchester which is being heard by the General Dental Council. Mr Megitt is alleged to have NHS in one year and is said to have treated up to 150 patients

Re-investment

in Research é

Development

Earnings

from exports

By JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

Dentists have complained for years that NHS fees are too low to allow them to earn a reasonable living from the NHS. Average earnings from the NHS are just over £100,000 of which 55 per cent goes on the expenses of running the practice, leaving an average income of £46,000.

Many dentists have turned to private work in the last ten causing alarm in the wake of years to boost their NHS earnings but some have opted to increase their NHS work by working longer hours or hiring assistants from abroad.

The British Dental Association said the increase in the number of these assistants earned over £600,000 from the about 1,000 are thought to be working in the UK - reflected the shortage of British dentists.

assistants, working under supervision, because they do not have the equivalent training to qualified British dentists.

The Patients Association said the boom in high earnings and the growth in the hiring of assistants was worrying. Roger Goss, a spokesman, said: "Perhaps this is something the health department ought to investigate. It raises the question of whether all the work being done is being done by fully qualified people."

general practice at the BDA. said: "It is a way of boosting NHS earnings provided you have got a room to put the assistants in. If you have the space, expanding the practice may mean you can save on

Michael Norton, a dental adviser to the Isle of Wight health

Benefit.

and are forced to take jobs as authority said: "There is always a suspicion if someone is earning a large amount of money from the NHS that their work is being hurried or rushed and may be of a poor standard. Some work very long hours and some deal with the sorts of treatments that incur higher fees such as orthodontics or they hire assistants. But the **Dental Practice Board targets** practitioners with high earnings for special scrutiny because of this concern."

Mr Megitt had no assistant Linda Wallace, the head of but managed to cope by working long hours. The BDA said yesterday that high-earning dentists working single handedly were "highly unusual". It added: "The vast majority of the country's 19,000 NHS dentists are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the mounting costs of running their prac-



The Rev Baroness Richardson, the Most Rev George Carey, Cardinal Basil Hume and Rowena Loverance, join forces for a united declaration on the timing of the millennium celebrations

This year, the National Health Service Sickness will spend £6 billion on medicines about 25 pence per person per day. In return, the pharmaceutical industry

will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry

that would fall sick. It would be the country. The Association of the

British Pharmaceutical Industry 12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY

TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

Churches call early start to millennium

YOU MAY be forgiven for thinking that the new millennium begins at midnight on 31 local churches to mark the cording to church leaders, who Christmas Eve 1999.

The Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey, and the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, year marking the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus's birth will begin earlier.

For hundreds of millions of Christians throughout the derline the importance of spirworld ... the celebrations to mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ will are delighted that the Governbegin on Christmas Eve 1999," the statement reads.

Until now, Churches Together in England (CTE), the umbrella body co-ordinating the churches' millennial celebrations, have concentrated on their so-called "Millennium Moment". But the CTE presidents, which include Dr Carey and Cardinal Hume, have now suggested that just before midnight on New Year's Eve, people should put down their glasses, light a candle and read a "resolution" which makes no reference to God or Jesus.

The resolution, which is in the form of a prayer, comes with a candle and a candleholder and will carry a label which reads: "This is a gift from the

December 1999. Not so, ac- 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ." The proposal announced on Tuesday that the has been greeted with considcelebrations should kick off on erable scepticism from Christians and non-churchgoers alike, who say they will be focusing on Christmas and drinking respectively.

Yesterday's statement was Cardinal Basil Hume, signed a an attempt to quash criticisms statement stressing that the of the "Millennium Moment" and continues: "It is not a substitute for Christian worship, nor is it exclusively Christian. Rather, what it does is to unitual and common values in an increasingly secular age and we ; ment and other political and faith leaders have responded so positively to it."

The other two presidents of CTE, the Moderator of the Free Churches' Council, the Rev Baroness Richardson, and Rowena Loverance, of the Religious Society of Friends, also signed the statement, the emphasis of which follows the line already taken by the Pope.

Last November Pope John Paul II issued a papal bull in which he also decreed that the year 2000 will begin on Christmas Eve 1999. The beginning of the "Jubilee" year will be marked by the opening of the holy door in Rome, and run until the Feast of the Epiphany on 6 January 2001, he said.

IN BRIEF

Teenagers held over youth's death

DETECTIVES ARRESTED four teenagers yesterday in connection with the murder of a youth in August 1997, Scotland Yard said. Jamie Robe, 17, died in south east London after being beaten with baseball bats and pool cues. A spokeswoman said the four, – aged 15, 17, 18 and 19 - are in custody at police stations in south London.

Prison guards may strike again

PRISON OFFICERS' leaders last night refused to rule out further industrial action, despite a High Court injunction served on their union, after a strike over a 2.7 per cent pay rise. The Prison Service obtained the injunction after yesterday's hour-long stoppage. Industrial action by officers is outlawed under the 1994 Criminal Justice Act.

Missing cousins found in London A TEENAGE girl and her 18-month-old cousin who had

been missing since Sunday have been found safe and well, Scotland Yard said yesterday. Sacha Williamson, 17, and Kamal Mitchell were found "at an address in south east London after a tip-off", a Yard spokeswoman said. Green group name 'wrongly used'

FRIENDS OF the Earth is claiming a large furniture company selling mahogany beds has been using its name to encourage customers to buy them. The London-based Wrought Iron Bed Factory denies the claims.

Golf prodigy hits two holes in one AN 11-YEAR-OLD golfer stunned fellow players when he hit two consecutive holes in one. Greg Peters, of Armitage in Staffordshire, achieved the feat on the sixth and seventh holes of a Lichfield golf club on 2 January.

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Medics say Yemen kidnap couple 'in good health'

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Eddie and Mary Rosser were working for a Dutch medical aid agency in Yemen when they were kidnapped with four others

A BRITISH couple taken By Andrew Buncombe hostage in Yemen were yesterday said to be in good health after their kidnappers allowed them to be visited by hospital

Mary, both aged in their 60s, were seen by staff from a hospital in Sadaa, north of the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. A Dutch family including two young children, who were kidnapped at the same time, were also seen and said to be well.

Yesterday a Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are in touch with the Yemeni authorities, who are in contact with the kidnappers, and they have told us they are hoping for a release soon." The spokesman added that

the British government had obtained an assurance from the Yemeni authorities that they would not use force to free the six – a tactic that went lethally wrong when security forces attempted to rescue 16 Western tourists seized shortly after Christmas. Four of the tourists - including three Britons died in the subsequent shoot-

Mr Rosser and his wife were kidnapped on Sunday as they and their Dutch colleagues were travelling in three cars on Eddie Rosser and his wife a road near Hawf in the Imran province, 87 miles north of

> The couple, from Lechlade in Gloucestershire, who have a son and daughter, were working for the medical aid organisation Worldwide Services of the Netherlands, and were halfway through a six-month contract.

The six hostages, including the Dutch couple's two children – boys aged six and seven – were ambushed on the main highway as they drove through a mountainous area in northern Yemen, known locally as "kidoao corridor".

It is understood that the kidnappers are using the Westerners to try to secure the release of a colleague who is in jail. They are not thought to be linked to the group that seized the tourists last month

astounded when I heard they had been taken hostage - they really are an average, goodnatured couple."

Meanwhile, it was an-nounced last night that representatives of Britain's Muslim community will meet Foreign Office ministers tonight to discuss the five Britons detained

A delegation from the Muslim Council of Britain will meet **Derek Fatchett and Baroness** Symons at the Foreign Office in London.

Mohsin Ghalain, 18, from London, Ghulam Hussein, 25, from Luton, and Shahid Butt. 33, Malik Nassar Harhra, 26, Samad Ahmed, 21, ali from Birmingham, were arrested on 24 December on suspicion of links with Islamic extremists.

The men were charged last week with associating with armed groups, forming a plan commit murder and weapons, in connection with the kidnapping of the West-

Law lords told of **Pinochet** atrocities

GRUESOME DETAILS of the BY CATHY COMERFORD murders and torture methods ailegedly used during the 17year reign of the former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet were outlined in London by the Spanish government yesterday.

The allegations included hostage-taking, electrocution. cest. They emerged on the seclaw lords that will determine whether the 83-year-old general has immunity from arrest and potential extradition to Spain.

Alun Jones QC, for the Spanish government, told the law lords that international conventions prohibiting human rights violations were based firmly on the notion of individual responsibility. "It must be that no matter who you are, whether a head of state, a government official or a public official, you have individual, personal responsibility in respect of a category of crimes recognised internationally as particularly odious, such as genocide, torture, and taking hostages," he said.

"Somewhere a line has to be drawn between actions which are the functions of a head of state, and those which are not." Mr Jones told the law lords only a limited number of a head of state's functions - state visits, signing treaties, and the

sending and receiving of diplomats - were regarded as attracting immunity under international law. If countries chose to give their head of state additional powers, then those were not recognised as meriting any kind of immunity.

The chairman of the law lords' panel, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, indicated that the court would seek a certificate

monwealth Office to make clear when the UK recognised General Pinochet as head of state.

The panel considered whether to ask for a certificate overnight. Lord Browne-Wilkinson said: "We thought it desirrape, forced cannibalism and in- able to have the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's view and day of the hearing by seven if they are able to give it. It may or may not be vital, but it would

> The law lords were earlier told that some of the general's 4,000 alleged victims were tortured for years. Rape and buggery, sometimes of children, not only extracted useful information from victims but also terrified potential opponents, it was claimed.

In October 1976, when he was the commander in chief of the Chilean army, General Pinochet allegedly tortured Jose Marcelino Gonzalez Malpu by applying electric current to his genitals, shoulders and ankles and pretending to shoot in front of him his mother. who was captured and stripped naked.

Another victim, Pedro Hugo Arellano Carvajal, was allegedly forced to play Russian roulette. A priest, Miguel Woodtric shocks. His arms were broken with a hammer and he was beaten and left to die.

General Pinochet's supporters issued a statement yesterday claiming he had saved Chile from a Marxist regime and blamed "left-wing propaganda" for "distorting history". Robin Harris, a senior aide to Baroness Thatcher, published a pamphlet claiming the general has been the victim of "a politically inspired kidnap".

GREAT ITALIAN DESIGN DESERVES GREDIT 0% FINANCE OVER TWO YEAR'S PLUS ONE YEARS FREE INSURANCE

Butlin's settles with deaf guests

BUTLIN'S HAS made out-of- By IAN BURRELL court settlements to nine deaf guests who said they were evicted from their chalets and thrown out of a holiday camp by

The claimants alleged 58 deaf guests were ejected from Butlin's camp at Pwliheli, North Wales, by staff who pulled out fuses and cut off heat and water. Guests said security guards had shouted: "Out! Out! Out! All Deaf Out!"

Butlin's expelled the guests after a disturbance in one of the camp's nightclubs on New Year's Eve 1997 prompted complaints from other holidaymakers. But yesterday the company apologised to the nine claimants, accepting they had done nothing wrong and paying each an undisclosed sum

Home Affairs Correspondent

Carl Miller, one of the successful deaf claimants, said the nine were delighted by the outcome. "For a holiday company which advertises that it is so

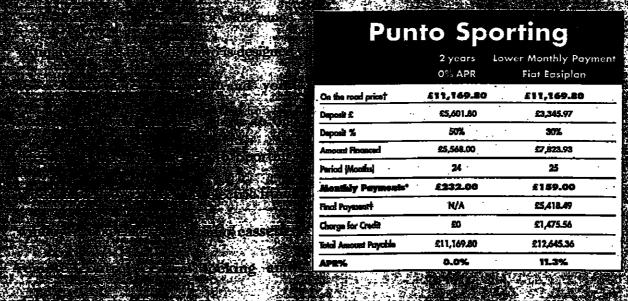
disability-friendly, their lack of

deaf awareness and disgrace-

ful attitude is totally appalling."

Tony Marshall, Butlin's managing director, said: "Our actions were taken with ... the safety and security of our other guests in mind. However, we acknowledge Mr Miller and his party were not involved in the incidents at the centre and apologise for any distress that may have been caused. We are particularly saddened by these events, as Butlin's welcomes

people with special needs."



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MPs find the awkward gap between outrage and reality

SOME MPS have more authority than others when asking questions, either conferred by some demographic curiosity of their constituency (Simon Hughes' Private an angry interview as Serb mortar Notice Question on Sierra Leone shells exploded with unnerving was received yesterday by the Foreign Secretary as he represents large numbers of Sierra Leonians)

or earned through past experience. heard. On Monday, Paddy Ashdown was actually halfway down the steps in a crouching prelude to leaving the chamber when the Speak-

This may have been the solidarity of a fellow veteran. Mr Ashdown himself has some status in this matter, having once delivered proximity in the background.

Mr Bell outranks him in this field: he has the distinction of having been shot while covering the disinte-When the Balkans come up, for gration of Yugoslavia. This isn't example, Martin Bell will usually be something that would mark him out as a novelty in Serbia or Kosovo, but it undoubtedly gives him a certain cachet in the Chamber. A whiff of cordite and front-line engagement er called Mr Bell. Mr Ashdown attends his contributions and preswivelled on the spot and returned. serves him from charges of arm-

chair belligerence which might be levelled at less battle-tested members. Yesterday he brought Mr Cook back to Kosovo with a question about the prospects of the verification mission there. He implied the outlook was bleak in the absence of a credible threat of force.

Mr Cook repeated the rather slender consolation he had offered MPs the day before - it took the West months to learn about the horrors of Srebrenica, he said, but on this occasion we had "clear, accurate information within 24 hours". If something can be done with such information this will all be to the good, but it looks as if the sole THE SKETCH

SUTCLIFFE

we get our horror fresh. Instead of wasting weeks in which we know nothing of the atrocity we can start

The awkward gap between boiling outrage and any realistic prospect of doing something to soothe it turned out to be the theme of the afternoon. Mr Cook finds himself in the unhappy situation of having precisely reversed the position of Kipling's harlot - he has responsibility without power, is expected to do something about the delinquencies of various distant countries, but has no effective means of enforcing his will. And on the evidence of Foreign Office questions. diplomacy without gunboats must be a hearthreaking affair - a thank-

vicious conflict. The language itself buckles under the strain. In common parlance, for instance, an agreement would indicate that two parties have either resolved or decided to split their differences, that affairs have moved on. In international diplomacy, however, it more usually describes a compulsory fantasy of concord, signed under duress and as limited in its powers

of restraint as a wet tissue. The Holbrooke Agreement, the Wve Agreement and the Simia Agreement were all mentioned, every one the precursor to some

feeling impotently enraged right less grind in which illusory accord shameless breach of promise. shameless breach of promise. Agreements, in short, aren't a way are the blood has dried. Agreements, in short, aren't a way of making peace with your neighbour, they're a way of making temporary peace with world opinion. And when they have served their purpose and been broken there isn't much that world opinion can do but gasp with indignation.

Flagrancy is the word of choice, a quality attributed by various MPs to President Milosevic, Saddam Hussein, the Israeli government and those supplying arms to Sierra Leone's rebels. Flagrant usually means "shockingly conspicuous" but in this context it might be better defined as "entirely predictable".

MPs condemn family doctors for 'neglect'

A COMMITTEE of MPs moved to "name and shame" failing family doctors yesterday when they took evidence from two GPs who were investigated fol-

After hearing their evidence in public, the MPs condemned the GPs' "unprofessional behaviour" and "neglect of duty".

One of the doctors before the influential Public Administration Select Committee was Dr Cuthbert, practising in the Wolverhampton Health Authority area, who failed to visit a dying patient in June 1996, although her daughter informed him of her deteriorating condition via an out-of-hours telephone messaging service.

The patient's daughter, who made the complaint against Dr Cuthbert, had earlier contacted a hospice asking for a syringe-driver because her mother had become unable to swallow the morphine prescribed for her pain.

However, Dr Cuthbert, who was contacted on his pager with the request to authorise such treatment, thought the hospice could not provide such

By Sarah Schaefer Poltical Reporter

the daughter "the family would have to manage somehow over

the weekend". Later that day, the patient's daughter called out a deputising doctor who injected the pa-

tient with morphine. The patient died the next morning. Dr Cuthbert told MPs: "Yes, with hindsight I would have acted very differently and it was neglect and I made a mistake."

Questioned on the relationship with the patient, whom he had treated for 17 years, he admitted he did not get on with the daughter. "Perhaps I treated the message with a pinch of salt because ... she claimed a lot of things her mother could not do which she could. It possibly clouded my judgement."

Dr Cuthbert explained he had thought that hospices only admitted patients with cancer and failed to check on this occasion whether it would also be able to treat his patient.

move to extend his remit to consider clinical as well as admin-

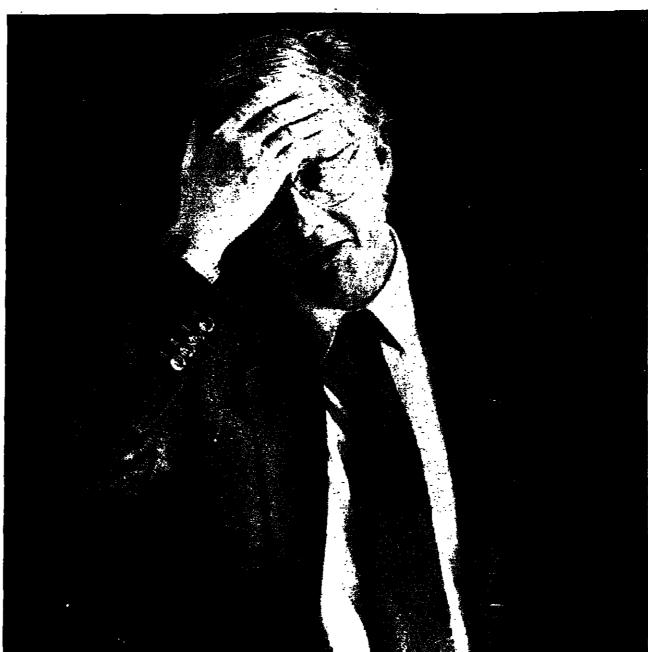
istrative complaints. Rhodri Morgan, Labour chairman of the committee, said MPs were moving into "unchartered water" by calling GPs to such a public grilling.

The second GP to give evidence, Dr Deepak Trivedi, agreed he did not follow guidelines when he struck off a mother, her daughter and son from his list after they had been in his treatment for over 10 years.

Dr Trivedi, who practises in the Wigan and Bolton Health Authority, removed the family from his surgery roll following a disagreement in June 1997 between a GP practising alongside Dr Trivedi and the daughter over breast-feeding.

When the practice refused to explain the decision, the mother made a complaint.

While Dr Trivedi accepted his findings, he added during the hearing: "I must say, however, that for GPs to have to give their reason is one-sided be-The hearing is part of an in- cause patients, two of whom treatment and he allegedly told role of the Health Services sive in my case, did not have to."



quiry by MPs into the work and were rude and verbally offen- Michael Meacher MP at the Green Ribbon Political Award where he collected an award for special environmental achievement

BY DIANE COYLE

GORDON BROWN, speaking before a House of Lords Committee yesterday, praised the Bank of England for getting inflation close to or on its tar-

above the Government's target level of 2.5 per cent for the first time in five months. He also defended members of the Bank's monetary policy committee against charges that they were remote from manu-



"highly professional and not constrained by the narrow interest of pressure groups," he said. Mr Brown said he would

target in March's Budget. He said the harmonised European measure would be monitored alongside the existing measure, the retail price index less mortgage interest payments. But he had decided it was not the right time to switch.

Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, offered some comfort to those hoping the monetary committee will reduce the cost of borrowing for

a fifth successive time. In a radio interview yesterday, Mr George said it would be right to continue with more moves in the same direction if there was more uncertainty in

reaffirm the existing inflation the world economy. Additional £1m aid for Kabbah

THE BELEAGUERED government of Sierra Leone is to receive an additional £1m from Britain, the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said yesterday.

The donation, funded by the Foreign Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence, comes in

addition to more than £20m pledged in aid since last spring.
Britain has also given £3m to Ecomog, the mainly Nigerian force which has been fighting against rebei RUF soldiers who are trying to depose the president, Ahmed Kabbah. President Kabbah was exiled in 1997 after an RUF coup, but was re-stored to power last spring.

Mr Cook said yesterday: "The RUF has a very robust approach to democracy and freedom of expression - they lop off the arms of anybody who disagrees with them." Mr Cook said he had protested to the government of Liberia, which has been

aiding the rebel troops. He added that reports of British firms flying arms to the RUF had been referred to Customs and Excise for investigation, Although the UN arms embargo on Sierra Leone has been partly lifted, it still covers BY FRAN ABRAMS

Westminster Correspondent There was controversy when

President Kabbah was restored when it emerged that a British firm, Sandline International broke an international embargo to ship arms to the country. The firm escaped prosecution after saying the Foreign Office was aware of its plans.

Much of Sierra Leone's capital has been destroyed in renewed fighting this month, and up to 200,000 people have been left homeless. Hundreds of Ecomog soldiers have been killed, and British sailors on the HMS Norfolk, sent to the region to give humanitarian aid, are reported

to have seen bodies in the water. Britain is giving logistical support to Ecomog and is sharing intelligence with its officers. The HMS Norfolk is on hand to provide transport for humanitarian aid, including the use of a helicopter. Some of yesterday's £1m

will be put to that use. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, was due to meet the Sierra Leone finance minister, James Jonah, in London last night to discuss how her department could help.

redraws map of London

Labour

CAPITAL PLANS By SARAH SCHAEFER

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THE WHO!

PLANS TO create 14 new superconstituencies that will make up the Greater London Assembly, redrawing the map of London, were accepted by the Government yesterday.

Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, announced the boundaries for the Assembly seats as the Bill to set up the new body and a directly elected Mayor began its twoday committee stage in the

The move came after the London Labour Party agreed this week to a timetable for selecting candidates. The deadline for nominations is set for 28 February, with candidates to

be chosen in September. The selection procedure for Labour's mayoral candidates is due to be announced within the next few weeks and is likely to

block Ken Livingstone. Accepting the Local Goverament Commission proposals for the boundaries to be used in next May's elections, Mr Raynsford disclosed in a written reply that the constituencies would have elec-

torates of up to 400,000. They will each return an assembly member under the traditional first past the post voting system, with the other 11 members elected by proportional representation in a London-wide "top-up" constituency.

During the committee stage, looking at the first four claus-es of the Bill, Mr Raynsford hailed the new assembly as the smallest and most costeffective of any city-wide administration in the world", adding that the 25-member assembly would be just one quarter of the size of the old Greater London Council

But Eric Forth, the Tory MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, said the Government's plans would lead to a "Burden of bureaucracy which will damage the interests of Londoners".

The Government has proposed a number of amendments to the Bill, including a measure to guarantee funds raised from traffic charges and off-street parking will be spent on transport infrastructure for at least 10 years.

THE HOUSE



Cook complains about Saddam

PRESIDENT SADDAM Hussein has stepped up his defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said yesterday. "The threat to withdraw recognition of the Kuwaiti border is the latest example of Iraq's wilful failure to accept its obligations to either its neighbours, or to the international community," Mr Cook told MPs.

Ethics improve Britain's image THE GOVERNMENT'S

ethical foreign policy has led to a "radical transformation of Britain's image abroad", and progress has been made over arms exports and training diplomats in human rights issues. Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said.

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Brown praises Bank over inflation success

Economics Editor

get for the past six months.

The Chancellor was speaking on the day inflation climbed

facturing industry. They are QUESTIONS **AND**

ANSWERS Chile relations

THE CHILEAN Foreign Minister Miguel Insulza "fully understands the position taken by the British Government", Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said, pledging the legal process involving the former Chilean dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, would not harm Anglo-Chilean relations.

Abuse funding THE GOVERNMENT last year gave £416,324 in funding to six charities assisting children at risk,

or victims of child abuse. Health minister John Hutton said.

COMMONS: 9.30am for backbench debates including: Sentencing policy over road deaths . At 2.30pm Northern Ireland questions, Prime Minister's questions. LORDS: 2.30pm, debate on the significance for the economy of the Euro.

Today's agenda

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THE INDEPENDENT

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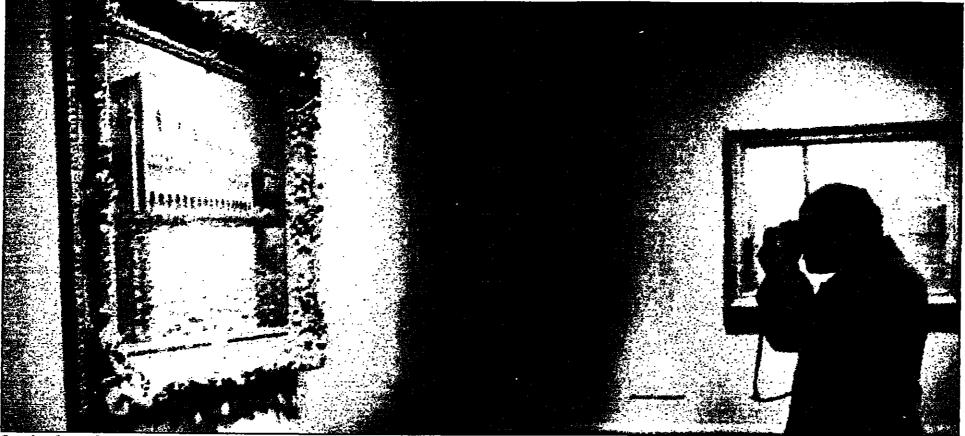
Labour redraw map of London

CAPITAL PLANS

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Art for the masses as big London shows open



Opening day at the Monet exhibition, at the Royal Academy in London, one of three populist art shows which started in the capital yesterday

ART AND design can now be described as mass entertainment after the Royal Academy yesterday announced record advance bookings for its Monet exhibition and two other keenly anticipated shows opened their

doors to the public. London last night saw the opening of the Design Museum exhibition, Modern Britain 1929-1939 - of which The Independent is the media sponsor - while, across the Thames, Art99, the London Contemporary Art Fair, held a charity gala opening presided over by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture. At the same time, invited guests were given the first glimpse of the Royal Academy's certain blockbuster, Monet in the 20th Century.

That exhibition, which opens to the public on Saturday, has already sold 133,000 tickets, the biggest-ever advance booking for an art exhibition in the UK. In addition to the ticket sales, private businesses have booked every evening and breakfast for the duration of the three month exhibition.

According to Ticketmaster, which operates the advance ticket line, the exhibition is **Arts News Editor**

selling as good as a hit west end musical However, the Royal Academy is worried that the public might think they cannot get in. In fact the galleries can accommodate up to half a million over the duration of the exhibition and everyone who turns up on the day should be able to get in.

Mary Ann Stevens, chief curator at the Royal Academy. said yesterday that researching the exhibition had brought new facts to light about Monet. Studying the canvases, many of which he did not exhibit, showed he had started on some of his most famous themes earlier than previously thought.

The exhibition includes some 80 paintings, including views of the artist's garden at Giverny and his atmospheric views of London and Venice. The exhibition culminates in an unparalleled gathering of his last and greatest paintings: the monumental lily panels.

Leading article, Review, page 3 A decade of design, Review, page 10

Young Brits show life after Monet

CLAUDE MONET may not need a rock star or a politician to announce he is in town. But Young British Artists still feel a little naked without the "cool"imprimatur from the combination of musician and government minister.

Last night Culture Secretary mer Eurythmics star Dave Stewart at the opening of Art99, the London Contemporary Art Fuir. And the third element of contemporary art chic - a fashionable restaurant – was also an essential part of the evening's entertainment: the celebrations continued with a second champagne reception at Ché restaurant in St James's.

Tickets for last night's gala, held in part to raise money for the Serpentine Galiery, were £150. From today, entry to the fair, at the Business Design Centre in Islington, will be £10.

That could, of course, prove the bargain of the year if one spots the next big thing among the canvasses and installations. Or it could leave the visitor wondering at the gullibillity

of sections of the art world. The young Japanese artist Tomoko Takanashi, one of realists, has extended her reach from the roomful of misto the Saatchi show. At Art99

FIRST NIGHT ART99

BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE LONDON

she has a sculpture which Chris Smith was joined by for- includes Monopoly boards, mobile phones and tape mea-sures. But Saatchi's blessing is lucrative. Even before the doors opened, this exhibit had already been bought.

But with 90 dealers exhibiting, one can take one's pick of a wide range, both in price and taste. From prints for around £100, up to Ben Nicholson's October 1958 (Brown Goblet) for £150,000, from a bejewelled kitchen plunger by Claire Carter for £2,200 to a £60,000 Damien Hirst spin painting, elegantly titled Beautiful Splotter Shit And Puss Point choice is a broad one.

Indeed, the title can impress as much as the work itself. Simon Tyszko's Arran jumper straitjacket would be impress far less without its title: I Waited (An Eternity) To Hear A Loving Word. The fair now includes a separate section -Charles Saatchi's neurotic Start-for 15 younger galleries specialising in new, experimental work. And there's not a cellaneous junk she contributed still life goblet among them.

Pilot fatigue

blamed for jet accident

A HOLIDAY aircraft with 357 passengers on board was badly damaged after a landing performed by pilots who had had little or no sleep for more than 20 hours, an accident report

The cabin crew, who earlier expressed concern about their long hours, also had to land the plane using an incorrect runway chart.

No one was hurt in the incident at Kos airport in Greece on 19 July 1998, in which part of the fuselage of the Caledonian Airways TriStar plane, flying from Gatwick, touched the

apout Saddan

Neither passengers nor crew realised they had been involved in a heavy landing. Problems with runway information meant that even after they had landed, the pilots did not know which part of the runway they had touched down on.

The report from the Air Accidents Investigation Branch said the captain and co-pilot had been called out from standby duty which started at 2pm and was due to finish at 8pm. They had asked if anyone

else was available because they were concerned about going on a long night flight which went beyond their on-duty period and they would have little time to rest beforehand.

BY PETER WOODMAN

the afternoon but could not do so because of noise from a local pub.

"He decided to arrive at the airport early and slept in his car for 40 minutes prior to reporting for duty. Other than this, both he and the first officer [copilot] had been awake in excess of 20 hours at the time of the accident," said the AAIB report.

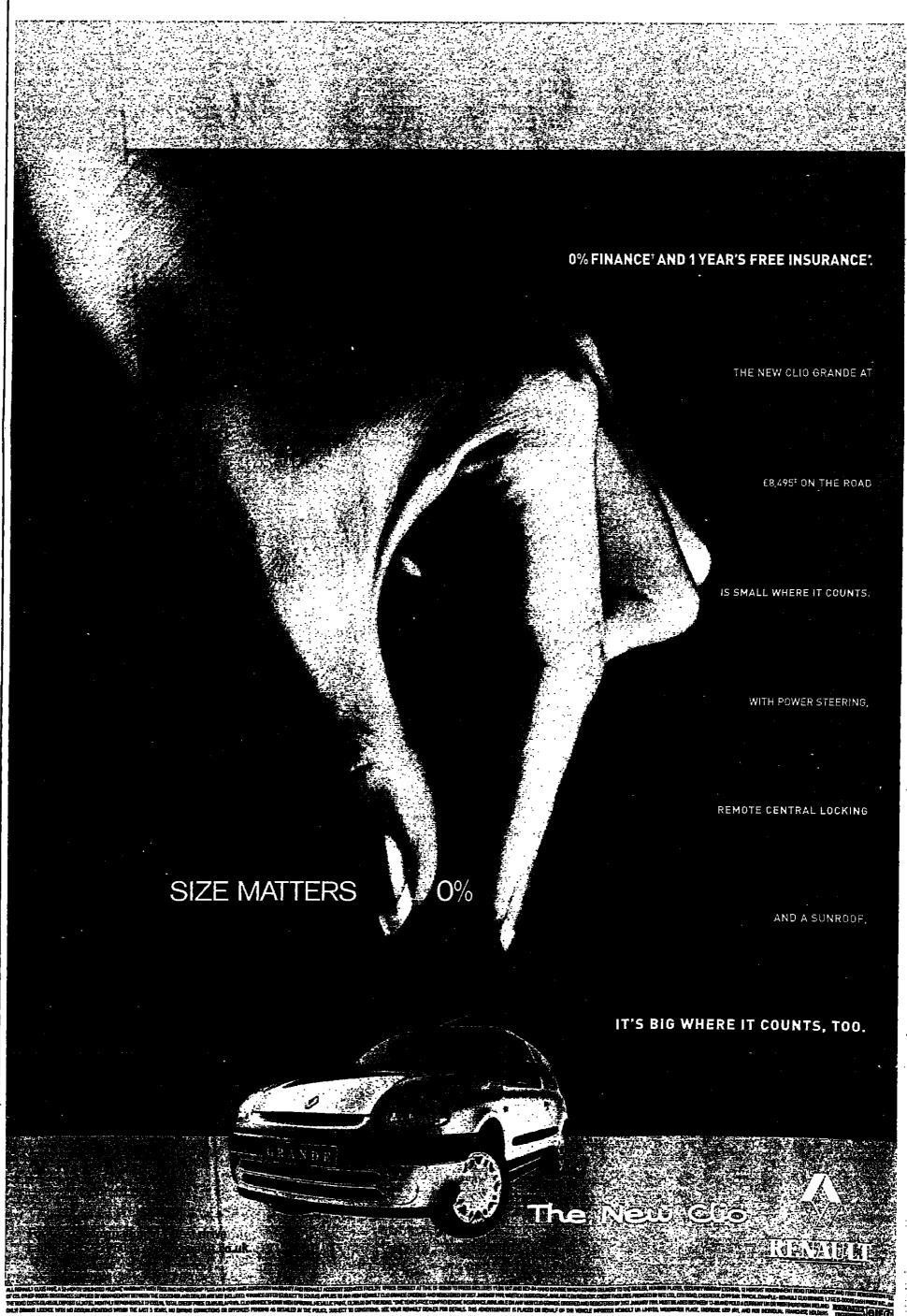
It said a combination of factors "resulted in a high workload for the crew at a time of day when they were likely to be experiencing a reduced level of alertness arising from their scheduling and work cycle".

■ The crash of a 1944-built flying boat on a VIP promotional trip was probably caused by corrosion, an official accident report said yesterday.

The Mayor of Southampton, Michael Andrews, 51, and another passenger, Peter Shave, 43, died in the flooded aircraft despite the efforts of the pilot John Alsford, 44, who dived down to try to save them. The 12 other passengers and four crew all survived the crash on 27 July 1998.

The aircraft was flying in an air show organised by Southampton City Council to celebrate the Millennium.

"The corrosion had devel-No one else was available so oped over a long time, but it went the captain had tried to sleep in undetected," said the report.



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A survey of British be

A survey of British life showed the fitness industrial may worth the life a year. And alongs move towards jogging a sym, the culture of the beautiful has boosted in men's toiletries in the decade.

The 17th annual republicatives by Mintel mark search also found Braton fundamental ascendial The cinema going

The cinema going continues - attendances the decade are up by 84 per although the mumbers with the atres and museum down slightly.

But after a surge in be

Farmers told to diversify or go under

BRITAIN'S FARMERS must di- BY NICHOLAS SCHOON versify into other activities if they are to survive. Conserving rural scenery and wildlife could become their most important occupation apart from growing food, the Agriculture Select Committee said yesterday. rope's farmers compete on Porestry and timber products, world markets. Set-aside, in food manufacturing and marketing, tourism and even light industry will be the other key areas for rural expansion,

Peter Luff. committee chairman, said that in a few years east, taking in former Warsaw most farmers could be receiving payments from taxpayers for acting as environmental guardians. But the MPs fear the Government will lag behind other EU nations in helping farmers to diversify, putting Britain's agricultural industry at a competitive disadvantage.

Their conclusions come in a report on European Commission proposals for statutory new countryside policies across the 15 member-states. These proposals, which the MPs say are "modest and fragmentary", are part of the latest reform of the widely criticised Common Agricultural Policy, which farm ministers are to agree on by the end of March.

Running the policy and all ny it absorbs half the European payers £30bn a year. Britain is

the second-largest net contributor after Germany.

The reform will slash guaranteed prices paid in the EU for most major crops, making Eugrowing nothing, will be abolished. The changes are needed to avert trade wars and enable the EU to expand to the Pact nations, without going bankrupt.

Farmers will receive compensation for these changes, but there are still disagreements between member-states about how long it compensation should continue for.

The MPs on the select committee call for rural development policies and the administration of subsidies for environment-friendly farming to be devolved from Brussels to the nations and regions of Britain. They take the British government to task for falling behind in developing a strategy for the rural industries of the future which must grow as farming shrinks.

The committee fears other the subsidies which accompa- member-states will use the new policies and subsidies for Union's budget and costs tax- green farming and rural development to give their farmers

an unfair advantage. Support from taxpayers could enable them to sell their food cheap. Britain, say the MPs, must ensure Europe's farm ministers agree to "rigorous control and monitoring." Mr Luff, Tory MP for the rural Mid Worcestershire constituency, said: "There which farmers are paid for is a well-founded feeling that other EU member-states have been more generous in helping farmers to diversify than successive British governments. British farmers are fearful that their competitors on the Continent will be getting greater subsidies, so there will not be a level playing-field."

The committee took evidence from British farmers before writing its report. It said the proposals did not

set aside enough money to encourage farmers to be more environmentally friendly or to

"The importance of setting the appropriate level of EU financing for this proposal cannot be overestimated - EU funds are absolutely critical to



Farmers will have to move from traditional concerns to such activities as forestry and even light industry, MPs have said



Jim Akrigg: Fed up

"I WAS selling my ewes for £60 on average in 1997 but last year they didn't even fetch £25. In the end I [made the decision to] give the last 25 away."

Like thousands of farmers across the United Kingdom, Jim Akrigg, who is selling his hill farm in east Cumbria. suffered greatly in the last

few months. In fact. 1998 afresh on a new farm. The was the worst on record for an industry which saw increasing numbers of farmers unique.

HARD TIMES FORCE FAMILY TO SELL UP

Mr Akrigg, whose family have been farming near the village of Kirkby Stephen since 1946, has decided to move with his wife and three sons to Canada to start

Akriggs, who kept ewes and cows until recently, are not A survey of hill farmers

conducted recently revealed that 43 per cent of respondents with children said they would not be taking over the family farm.

"We are fed up", said Mr

Akrigg. "The damage has been done now and it will take years for things to get any better. Normally, if sheep are down then cattle or pigs are up but recently everything seems to have been flat and in the doldrums." He added: "I want my sons to be able to stand on their own two feet."

PACKARD BELL

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Heart deaths

THE PUBLIC inquiry into the BY JEREMY LAURANCE Bristol heart babies disaster Health Editor will not allow the surgeons at its centre to be made scapegoats, its chairman pledged.

Professor Ian Kennedy, who yesterday announced the list of issues that the inquiry will cover, said the aim was to find out what happened in Bristol and what lessons could be learnt by hospitals elsewhere, rather than to pin blame.

We are not seeking to focus on individuals but rather we are looking at the whole system which was responsible for the management and care of children needing heart surgery services. It will not be a court,

it will not be a trial," he said. The inquiry, which is set to be one of the most detailed ever undertaken by the NHS, follows an investigation by the General Medical Council into the deaths of 29 babies at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

The GMC found three doctors, two surgeons and the hospital's chief executive, guilty of serious professional misconduct after they allowed complex heart operations on babies to continue, despite warnings from colleagues about their poor success rate.

The GMC acts like a criminal court, so it could investigate only specific charges relating to specific patients where the evidence was strongest.

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move towards jogging and the gym, the culture of the body

beautiful has boosted sales of

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search also found Britons to be

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exercise.

decade.

Britons 'obsessed

by cult of fitness'

BRITAIN IS becoming a nation BY LOUISE JURY

The inquiry will investigate all types of heart operations. including cases of children who suffered disabilities as well as those who died.

The main issues proposed for phase one of the inquiryare: ■ The national and regional context in which heart services

children were treated; ■ Training of staff;

■ How and when concerns

were expressed and dealt with. Parents of children who died after heart surgery at the hospital welcomed the announcement but supporters of the three doctors said the inquiry had been biased from the

prompted by the building soci-

ety windfalls of 1997, stated

spending priorities in 1998

Although for the average

UK citizen real disposable in-

come rose by 2 per cent last

year, most respondents said

saving for the future was their

The research concluded that

the new Labour government,

£35bn of building society wind-

falls and falling unemployment

caused the surge of consumer

destined to stay outside, at

least psychologically. Mintel

found there had been little

And as the rest of Europe integrates, the British seem

main concern.

confidence in 1997.

showed a note of caution.

inquiry 'will not be a trial' 17" Monitor Upgrade The computer superstore

It did not, and could not, look at the wider picture which caused distress and anger to many of the parents who complained their stories had gone unheard.

were delivered; A detailed investigation into

the paediatric cardiac unit at the Bristol Royal Infirmary; ■ Comparisons between the Infirmary and other hospitals: How children were referred

to the hospital for treatment; ■ Management of surgery and post-operative care; ■ How families of babies and

■ The role of post-mortem examinations;

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increase over the last 10 years in the number of Britons "feeling European".

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Clinton sets the ball rolling for Gore

HE MAY be facing removal from BY ANDREW MARSHALL office, he may be unable to get in Washington his legislation through Congress and he may be only two years away from the end of his seem designed to set out an term in any case, but President Bill Clinton last night gave no-

tice that he has not given up. In the State of the Union address he was due to deliver to ation at the century's end. both houses of Congress, he was set to lay out an array of projects that show he may be down but not out. But behind the facade, much of what he was due to announce had less to do with his own ambitions

dent, Al Gore. Policy details agenda for Mr Gore and to guard his weaker flanks against the Republicans. It is a manifesto for the baby-boom gener-

The mainstay of the speech was the growing budget surplus, expected to be a cumulative \$2.7 trillion (\$1,700bn) over the next 15 years. There is no consensus about what to do with the windfall - spend it, save that those of his vice-presi- it or use it for tax cuts - and last

give his formula. He wants some 62 per cent to bolster the pension system.

Between a fifth and a quarter would be invested through the stock market. The US population is ageing and baby boomers fear there will not be enough paid in to keep their pensions. The initiative would keep the pension system solvent until 2055.

Another 15 per cent of the surplus would go to preserving the Medicare system for the elderly, and 11 per cent would be used for new "universal savings

vest for their retirement.

Mr Clinton's Republican enemies in Congress wanted the pensions system privatised. The Clinton proposals, by allowing private management of some of the system's assets, and by introducing the new retirement accounts, goes halfway to this, while preserving a nationally run scheme.

The Republicans preferred to devote the surplus to tax cuts, but Mr Clinton's proposals, which have overtones of careful economy, while reassuring people in their thirties system. Education is one of the

night Mr Clinton was due to accounts" for individuals to in- and forties that there will be a big policy issues favoured by pension waiting for them, will command considerable political support, especially among the less well-off.

The rest of the surplus Mr Clinton will propose spending -in interesting ways. Firstly, he was due to call for considerable investment in education, reinforcing discipline and standards. The state school system is, again, a big concern for those in their thirties and forties with young children, especially those who cannot afford to move them into the private

George W Bush, Governor of Texas and the most likely Re-reduce trade barriers was anpublican candidate to face Mr Gore in the 2000 elections.

The President was also due to propose using some of the cash to boost military spending. part of a package that would devote \$112bm to the Pentagon, the first increase in spending since the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr Clinton and Mr Gore are vulnerable on defence, where the administration is regarded as weak: a ready-made defence spending increase helps defuse this weapon at the polls.

World Trade Organisation and other of Mr Clinton's proposals. This will appeal to free-trade constituencies and unions and environmentalists, as Mr Clinton was to propose adding labour standards and green considerations into the WTO.

The spread of the speech and the boldness of some of the ideas conceals important facts. The first is that Mr Clinton faces weeks, perhaps months, of trial in the Senate that will absorb a lot of his time and energy. The second is that both

New talks to reform the houses of Congress are controlled by the Republicans, and he has found it all but impossible to get his priorities approved for the past two years. There is little reason to think that will change.

In any case, by the end of this year most politicians will principally be thinking about the

But by putting down markers in so many areas, and in particular by appealing to the middle-of-the-road, middleaged and middle class, Mr Clinton has given a hefty boost to the early prospects of Mr Gore.

President unveils aggressive defence in Senate trial

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

PROTESTING THE innocence of President Bill Clinton and the personal nature of the accusations compared with the great public duties of the presidency. White House lawyers yesterday embarked on the lawsuit of their lives: the fight to keep him in office. Led by the White House

chief counsel. Charles Ruff. who presented the opening Ruff: Gave the opening statement, the team set out to dissect and discredit the smallprint of the charges.

But the most effective advocate for Mr Clinton yesterday was expected to be the President himself.

His State of the Union address last night gave him a should remain in office. Without was expected to lay out the case against his removal.

And with his job-approval ratings as high as Ronald Reagan's at their peak and more harassment suit. than 80 per cent of Americans Today poll - pronouncing his



statement for defence

The difficulty his defence team faced was to persuade the Senate of the legal, rather than emotional, case for keeping him. They had also to address specific points: that lying about sex under oath was the same as unique forum to argue why he lying about anything else under oath and that by trying to keep mentioning the "I-word", he his relationship with Monica Lewinsky out of court he was depriving Paula Jones of her constitutionally guaranteed recourse to justice in her sexual

Over the weekend the White initially at least they would presidency successful, public seek to contest the accuracy of

to justify impeachment but that the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice could not be substantiated.

Yesterday the White House indicated it also intended to bolster the political arguments. As well as unexpectedly calling on three Democratic members of the House of Representatives to plead Mr Clinton's case later this week, they also co-opted Dale Bumpers.

Mr Bumpers, who retired from the Senate last year, is a Democrat from Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas. He is also a Senate diplomat whose word carries weight on both sides of the chamber.

The White House decision to pay as much attention to politics as to law, to persuading the Senate of the political risks of removing the President as well as what they argue are the legal defects of the prosecution case, reflects a twofold concern.

The Clinton camp, it is said, was taken aback by the strength of the prosecutors' presentation, and worried that it has lost the argument over according to a CNN/USA House lawyers signalled that calling witnesses. If politics can trump the law in a constitutional process that meshes support is still Mr Clinton's the charges, arguing not that the two, the President has won.



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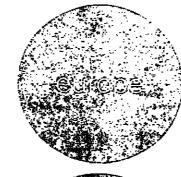
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US to arm Iraqi opposition

THE UNITED States will an- By ANDREW MARSHALL nounce in the next few days plans to give military support to the Iraqi opposition, figures within the opposition groups

The money will go to seven of the most significant groups ranged against Saddam Hussein, including the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the largest. Some opposition sources said the cash may also go to the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a Shia group backed by Iran, and to the Iraqi Communist Party, though this could not be confirmed. The seven groups will meet in London, probably before the end of the month, to sort out their differences and plan a strategy against the regime, the opposition said.

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The approuncement marks a victory for the INC in particu- nator for the Iraq opposition, lar, which was backed by the US and Britain but lost favour, and was routed in northern Irao. It has lobbied long and hard in Washington for renewed support, against opposition from the White House and the CIA. "To be designated as eligible for military aid for the first time, with overt aid, that is a really big deal," said an INC

The Iraq Liberation Act, passed by Congress last year, provides \$97m (£60m) to arm and support the opposition. The administration has until the end of this month to designate the groups to whom the cash will go, and it has al-

ready informed Congress, officials in Washington said. The US will also name a co-ordiwho will be responsible for seeing that the cash is properly

The opposition wants guar-

they will have anti-tank ordnance to defend themselves. They also want to ensure air support if it is needed. The last attempt to back an opposition insurgency collapsed ignominiously when the US antees from the US that if Sad- refused to provide air support.



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Gore Villagers cower as Serb bullets fly THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 20 January 1899 Villagers cower as Serb bullets fly THREE KOSOVO Albanian women were huddled by the women were huddled by the fact the road into Racak. Kosovo interactive will seave the security Cutor, Louise Arbour, was nied access to Kosovo far as ond day sesterday but said would stay put and away in the security Cutor, Louise Arbour, was nied access to Kosovo far as ond day sesterday but said would stay put and away in would sta



Serb police evacuating an injured comrade, who later died, from the battle zone near the village of Racak in Kosovo

paralysed with fear as a Yugoslav artillery piece sent out a heavy boom. One of the women was crying. She said her cattle were going to die because she was too scared to go into the village to feed and water

A few minutes later from the other direction, heavily armed special police units took up positions in the village. As the armoured vehicles and Jeeps moved forward, the air crackled with automatic fire - incoming and outgoing - when ethnic Albanian guerrillas in the hills realised they were about to come under attack.

The Serbian offensive continued yesterday despite demands from the international monitoring mission in Kosovo for restraint and calls from Nato for the ceasefire pledge: signed by President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia last October to be honoured.

In Racak, some of the police stayed behind at the mosque where the bodies of more than 40 ethnic Albanians killed by the security forces on Friday had been laid out. The police had removed the bodies on Monday for examination.

The detachment of police moved up the hill to try to flush out positions held by the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Amid constant firing, one police officer aimed back down the hill, clutching his bleeding head.

A helicopter was flown in to

One member of the security forces was reported to have died. The KLA also said it had lost one of its fighters.

On the Serbian side, the fighting was done by the police. some using four-wheel drive vehicles with Belgrade number plates. But they were supported by the Yugoslav army, using heavy artillery, anti-aircraft cannon and mortars.

Although the KLA had left Racak, they had withdrawn only to the next village. The regional commander, Shukri Buja, had set up his headquarters a short drive from the forward positions of the police.

Commander Buja said there was little his fighters could do when faced with the full might

tuous of what he said was the Serbian forces' unwillingness to take and hold ground, and was confident that the KLA will move back to the villages it has been forced to leave during the past week.

Asked if the toll of dead from Racak did not prove that the moderate ethnic Albanian political leader, Ibrahim Rujova, was right in pursuing a clearly peaceful path to independence, the commander replied: "I spent half my youth in a Serbian jail. All that time I dreamed of the day when I could come to the mountains and fight for

my people. That day has come." Meanwhile the United Na-

nied access to Kosovo for a second day yesterday but said she would stay put and await an answer from Mr Milosevic.

"We cannot be granted access to Kosovo, because in the words of the Yugoslav justice minister we have no jurisdiction there," Ms Arbour said in Skopie. Macedonia, after talking on the phone with the Justice Min-

ister. Zoran Knezevic On Monday, Yugoslav guards at the Macedonian border turned back Ms Arbour when she tried to cross into Kosovo to investigate last Friday's massacre in Racak

The UN insists that its court in The Hague has jurisdiction throughout former Yugoslavia. including Kosovo. But, in a statement on Monday, the UN court "does not have and cannot have jurisdiction in

is "a clear matter of terrorism". Ms Arbour disputed this and said that "there is evidence that suggests there were also war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the context of an armed conflict".

"Under international humanitarian law, that is the basis upon which we can move ahead and exercise the mandate given to us by the UN Security Council," she said, adding that only a Security Council resolution can abolish the ongoing jurisdiction of The Hague

> Leading article. Review, page 3 Paddy Ashdown, Review, page 4

10,000 miners threaten mayhem in Romania

coal miners were heading for the capital Bucharest vesterday after a pitched battle with police which plunged the government into crisis over the threat to country's nascent

The miners, who have been on strike for two weeks, are demanding a pay rise of 35 per cent and the reopening of two miners have refused to return

President Emil Constantiing with the Prime Minister, Radu Vasile, yesterday after the miners launched a barrage of rocks and stones at police Jiu. 150 miles north-west of the capital, and swept through barricades. "The miners departure to Bucharest would spell catastrophe for them, the authori-

OSITION

in Budapest

ties and for the country as a whole, both internally and externally," said Pantelimon Manta, the prefect of Gorj county, which covers Bumbesti Jiu.

The meeting between the President and the Prime Minhead of the country's intelliradio reported that the Defence Minister, Victor Babiuc, said he was ready to deploy the nescu held an emergency meet- army against the strikers, if police failed to halt their advance on the capital.

But the protest is more than another economic grievance lines in the town of Bumbesti in the crisis-ridden Romanian economy. Toughened by years of hardship, the miners could once again plunge the capital into chaos, as they did in 1990 and 1991. Then thousands of

miners, opposed to market reforms, built barricades and battled with police. In 1991, miners set fire to government headquarters and forced Petre Roman, Romania's first post-Communist prime minister from office.

tween the miners, who live and ister was also attended by the __work in harsh conditions, and army's Chief of Staff and the the inhabitants of the capital. seen by the strikers as the epihave betrayed them since the bloody 1989 revolution that top-Ceausescu, who was executed

We will not give an inch. Bucharest is mocking us," said the miners' leader, Miron Cozma, who was imprisoned last year for his role in the 1990 and 1991 riots. "I have seen people desperate but resolved. As long as I have a mandate to go to Bucharest I will fulfil it."

There is no love lost bepled the dictatorship of Nicolae with his wife Elena.

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Weakened Hussein comes home to a dynastic struggle in Freetown

BY PATRICK COCKBURN in Amman

SPECULATION ABOUT a change in the succession to the throne mounted yesterday in Jordan as King Hussein returned to his capital, Amman, after six months of cancer treatment in the United States.

After piloting his own plane home King Hussein prayed on the rain-swept Tarmac before being embraced by his younger brother Crown Prince Hassan, who acted as regent during the King's illness and whose 33-year stint as heir to the throne is now in doubt.

Among the assembled Jordanian royal family greeting the King was Hamza, the King's 19-year-old son by his present wife Queen Nour, who is the most likely candidate to be the next crown prince.

The loss of all his hair as a result of chemotherapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota makes King Hussein looked older than his 62 years, 45 of them on the Jordanian throne. Doctors say he has made a full recovery, but his prolonged absence has set off a power struggle within the royal family.

Crowds were of only moderate size as the King drove through a damp and cold Amman. The poor turnout may be the result of the unaccustomed and much needed rain, but the 4.5 million Jordanians are worried by the unpopular 1994 peace treaty with Israel, Jordan's increased hostility to Iraq and a deep economic malaise that has lasted since the Gulf War.

The King increased ru- matic position because it is a mours of a change in the suc- small power squeezed becession on Saturday when he gave a television interview broadcast in Jordan in which he did not refer to Crown Prince raeli Prime Minister, to the Hassan, a hard-working administrator, as his successor or as regent. He later denied re- ereignty by sending assassi-



Assyrian Christians celebrating yesterday in Amman as King Hussein returned to Jordan after his cancer treatment

ports that he had discussed the succession with US officials saying: "No one has the right to speculate what goes on in the King's mind."

Jordan is in a delicate diplotween Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, to the east, and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Iswest. Both have shown their contempt for Jordanian sovnation squads to kill their domestic enemies in the streets

In a small house discreetly watched by security police on the outskirts of Amman, Laith Shbeilat, the outspoken Jordanian opposition leader, recently released from jail. expressed misgivings yesterday about the possible removal of Crown Prince Hassan, He said Jordan needed political reforms and these could not be carried out by a weak leader.

He said: "Until two days ago when I heard the King's speech I did not believe it would happen, because I thought the King had more wisdom than to carry out a change like this." He said Prince Hamza was inexperienced, adding: "When you

> gambling." Crown Prince Hassan is in a curious position within the ruling Hashemite dynasty, installed by Britain after the

want to make political reforms

putting a kid in charge is a form

First World War. In 1965, when King Hussein was in daily danger of assassination, his son Abdullah was only three years Hassan was made heir. Today he has several sons with a claim to the throne. Mr Shbeilat, who served

seven months in jail after there was rioting in the southern city of Maan last year, said: "Jordan needs a constitutional monarchy and has an authoritarian

killed here, but it is still a police state. Even a taxi driver needs to get a security clearance." Since 1994 the governold and his younger brother ment has tried to marginalise the press and limited the scope of parliamentary opposition.

King Hussein never relaxed his grip on Jordan even from his hospital bed. Supporters of Crown Prince Hassan say he was in no position to resolve problems as regent, though he was blamed for anything which

UN warns of famine

NIGERIAN COMMANDERS yesterday claimed they had in Conakry secured the most volatile rebelheld quarter of Freetown but aid agencies trying to reach the hungry and injured in the capital of Sierra Leone raised questions about the success of the operation.

In Freetown - without electricity or new supplies of food for more than a week - 30,000 people were reported to have taken refuge in the main foot-ball stadium. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation warned of a famine.

Ecomog, the Nigerian-led intervention force defending the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, said yesterday it had completed the process of flushing out rebels from Kissy, in the east of

But in Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea, aid agen-cies including Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and members of the British medical aid charity, Merlin, said they felt Ecomog was frustrating their efforts to help victims of the war. Fighting flared nearly two weeks ago, for the third time in 18 months.

A spokesman for MSF in Conakry, where all aid and diolomatic efforts are being coordinated said: "We're worried about our staff. Ecomog has taken away their communications equipment because it says the rebels have been using it.

"We are doing everything we can, through the United Nations, to fly in this Friday with medical supplies. But we are not optimistic and are left feeling that Ecomog wants as few witnesses as possible while it clears up," he said.

The Royal Navy frigate HMS Norfolk, which has been moored off Sierra Leone for the last four days, was yesterday due to fly food aid to people gathered in Sika Stephen's Stadium in the relatively safe western area of Freetown.

The British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Sir Peter Penfold, who is currently in Conakry, said he was keen to return to Freetown to pursue British efforts to help the government of President Kabbah.

He said: "The rebels of the Revolutionary United Front [RUF] - which has no ideology and no popular support - have brought their murder to Free town. I spoke today to an acquaintance in Freetown who had just seen someone whose hands had been cut off."

Sir Peter said Britain and the international community should continue to support President Kabbah for the sake of the people of Sierra leone. "They really believe in democ-racy. The ordinary people brought Kabbah to power and we should help to keep him there because he has no army

of his own." President Kabbah, elected in 1996, was ousted in a coup the following year. He was returned to power after Ecomog intervened last year. At the time a British company, Sandline International, breached an arms embargo when it supplied pro-Kabbah military with arms.

In the past year, since the arms-to-Africa scandal, RUF forces have strengthened their control of the countryside, due in part to Liberia sending arms, and to the arrival of mercenaries from Burkina Faso and Ukraine. Three weeks ago the RUF entered Freetown, from which Ecomog has attempted to oust them ever since. Yesterday President Kabbah was reportedly in Freetown. Foday Sankoh, the rebel leader, remained under Ecomog guard in Sierra Leone.

Despite a flurry of diplomatic activity spearheaded by the Organisation of African Unity there were no signs in Conakry yesterday of moves towards peace talks.

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someone whose each Britain and the said that federal judge Adolfo Bagnasco would call General io Suppor Galtieri in for questioning, probably this week, in connecrecogn for the safe tion with the kidnapping of hundreds of babies from women prisoners who later for mass murder, torture and "disappeared". Some of the women gave birth blindfolded and bound in military camps and never saw their babies. Some of the women were then dumped, alive but drugged, from aircraft into the Atlantic ocean, according to witnesses.

Eight other former military chiefs from the 1976-83 military regimes are in detention, facing prison terms of up to 25 years on baby-stealing charges.

"General Galtieri is to be called in for questioning and could be detained shortly," said a source in Mr Bagnasco's office. The general who lives in Buenos Aires, was given amnesty in 1990 after being jailed for his role in the Falklands defeat.

More than 400 babies were taken from their mothers under the various military regimes. Some were killed with their mothers, some were later traced and reunited with their grandparents, but most were handed over to childless police army officers and are probably alive today unaware of their true families.

President Carlos Menem gave amnesty to Argentina's former military rulers in 1990 after they had spent a few years in jail for their roles in the Dirty War. Since last summer, de Mayo expressed satisfaction

Latin America Correspondent

when a judge ruled that the kidnapping of babies was not covered by Mr Menem's amnesty. eight former Argentinian military chiefs have been detained, including the former junta leaders, General Jorge Videla and Admiral Emilio Massera, General Videla, 72, who overthrew President Maria Estela ("Isabelita") Peron in a coup in 1976, was jailed for life in 1985



Galtieri: Facing detention

kidnapping during his regime, when an estimated 30,000 Argentinians were killed or disappeared. He was among those given amnesty in 1990.

Some of the eight detainees awaiting trial are in jail, others are under house arrest. Some, including General Videla, also face charges from the Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon - who is seeking to put the former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet on trial - in connection with the disappearance of Spanish citizens during the Dirty War.

In Buenos Aires, the group known as Grannies of the Plaza

ine Galtieri to be You're welcome: US restaurants offer hand of racial friendship

AMERICAN TIMES **DENNY'S DINER**

A FACE appears on the television screen. It is brown, wideeyed, and framed - quite discreetly - with dreadlocks. "I want to let you into a little secret," says the voiceover.
"I'm black."

that General Galtieri may be

the next to be detained. "He was a maximum leader of the junta. They all bear some re-

sponsibility for the era during

which they ruled," said Elsa

Pavon, a 61-year-old member of

the Grannies. While the Moth-

ers of the Plaza de Mayo are

seeking justice for disappeared

sons and daughters they pre-

sume dead, the Grannies are

seeking the living children of

some of those sons and daugh-

ters - "the living disappeared".

more than 60 children - now

young adults - and had them re-

turned to their biological grand-

parents after court cases. But

they are still seeking more

Mrs Pavon's daughter Moni-

ca fled with her husband and

baby daughter Paula to Uruguay

during the Argentinian military

era. Due to the collaboration be-

tween the Argentinian and

Uruguayan generals, the couple

disappeared in Montevideo in

1978. When the military regime

ended in 1983, the Grannies put

photos of their missing grand-

children in newspapers. Mrs

Payon got a tip that a former po-

liceman had a daughter match-

was Paula and she was handed

over to Mrs Pavon's custody.

She is now a 22-year-old student.

humed bodies buried under

headstones marked NN (No

Nombre, or No Name). They

found Barbara and Roberto

Lanouscou, aged six and five,

both shot in the back. Near by,

where they expected to find the

children's baby sister Matilde,

the diggers pulled out a teddy

bear. Matilde was presumably

passed on to an army or police

officer She remains missing.

The civilian authorities ex-

DNA tests proved the girl

ing Paula's description.

than 300 others.

The Grannies have traced

Reading this in Britain your reaction might be neutral or dismissive: "Well, so what? Of course, you are." But this is the United States and such frank-

ness about race still shocks. "There are some people who never notice another person's colour" the advert continues, "But most of us do. And that's OK. Don't feel guilty. Noticing a person's colour doesn't make you a racist. Acting like it matters does."

The face fades out to be replaced by a yellow, red and green logo: "Denny's". To an American viewer that logo means two things - a chain of rather old-fashioned restaurants, the sort of no-frills Formica-topped places where you can have breakfast or a burger and be waited on by motherly ladies with largepocketed aprons. But Denny's neans something else. It has behind it two expensive court judgments for discriminating against black customers, or would-be customers, because their main complaint was that they could not get served. Either they were ignored at the door when they waited for the hostess to seat them, or they seated themselves and went

I, too, have a problem with the hostess system at American restaurants, and not just at Denny's. I fail to understand why, at an eatery which is but a couple of notches up from a fast-food joint, I should have to stand at reception, contemplating dozens of free tables. while waiting for someone to

It is one of those American



Black customers have not always found it easy to get served in an American diner

practices that leads Euro- mercials, of which the "I'm ican pedigree, coming from peans to ask whether Ameri- black" advert is one, is the company's way of signalling can service-sector jobs are that it has changed. It is cost-"real" jobs and, as we wait for the frazzled hostess to notice ing \$2m and is the brainchild us, to ponder the economics. of James Adamson, chief ex-

ecutive of the parent company, How can they afford to keep so many tables empty and employ Advantica. someone just to seat us? Would they not do better to employ fewer people at higher pay and have them all wait at table, instead of having us wait around for the hostess?

This, however, might be "white" reasoning. If you are black or Hispanic, you might reach a different conclusion. And it was this sort of thing that gave Denny's a bad name with the very customers that it could have courted.

A new set of television com-

and reputation.

Mr Adamson was appointed four years ago when Denny's was at its nadir. It had just paid out \$54m to two groups of aggrieved customers who said they had been refused tables or service for no

their skin. A small, slight and bouncy 50-year-old, Mr Adamson embodies that very American virtue: feeling good about yourself and, of course, your company. He has an all-Amer-

Gap, via Burger King, and is that discrimination exists, decredited with rescuing the restaurant chain's fortunes

Last year, Advantica which owns three restaurant groups besides Denny's caused a stir by coming second in Fortune magazine's list of best 50 companies for Asians, blacks and Hispanies.

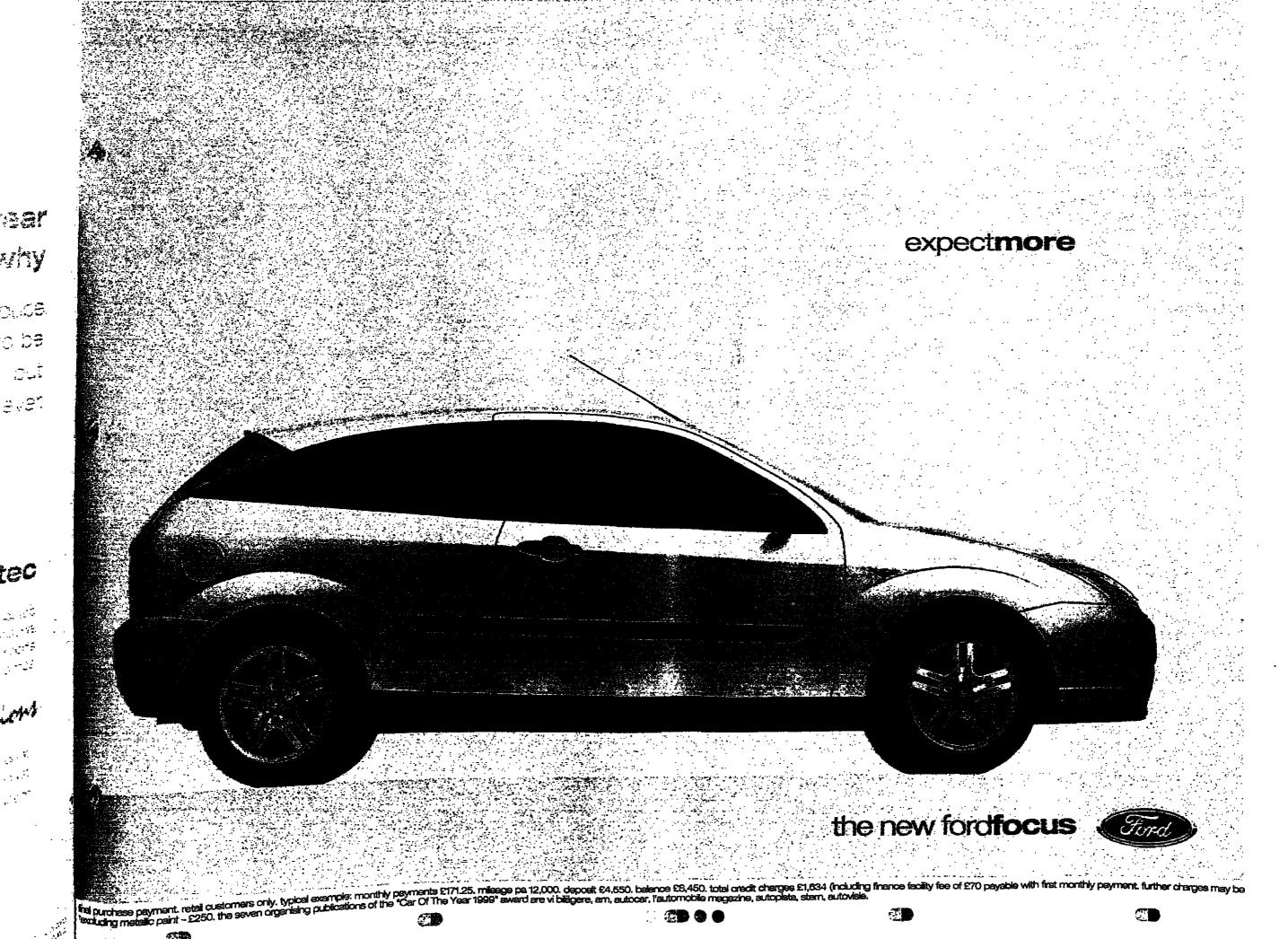
Almost half its employees are now black or Hispanic, and one-third of its supervisory staff are from ethnic mireason other than the colour of norities. It has "minority' representatives on its board and puts all staff through "diversity" training. The number of Denny's franchises held by gamble that Mr Adamson, for black Americans has gone from one to 123 in six years.

Mr Adamson acknowledges liberate or not. "I am a complete supporter of affirmative action," he says, "because I don't believe the playing field is level

... white men tend to hire white men." He is unusual, too, in believing - probably correctly that racial integration in the US is getting worse rather than hetter

The advertising campaign is an expensive gamble that Advantica, which emerged from bankruptcy only last year, can hardly afford. But as the complexion of America changes, and the spending power of minority groups grows, it is a one, thinks worthwhile.

MARY DEJEVSKY



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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

IMF admits Asian crisis mistakes

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has conceded it made mistakes in the Asian financial crisis. A report concludes that in the main its policy prescriptions towards South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand were correct, but there was a crucial flaw: the IMF assumed its programmes

would rapidly restore market confidence, and they did not. "However, in the event, the programmes and their initial implementation did not restore confidence quickly enough, capital accounts were much less favourable than assumed and so the reverse happened," says the report.

The Fund also conceded it may have misjudged calls for government spending cuts. But it defended calls for rapid monetary tightening, saying that only this could restore currency stability and head off inflationary spirals.

Branson's clothing losses grow



VICTORY CORPORATION. the clothing and cosmetics group owned by Richard Branson (pictured), blamed tough trading for a sharp rise in interim losses. The retailer of Virgin casual clothes and Virgin Vie cosmetics yesterday posted £10.9m interim loss. compared with a £3.5m shortfall last year. Richard Knight, finance director, said the company had a

good Christmas, with like-for-like sales up 5 per cent, but added that sales had fallen back in early January.

Pru's new business rises 1.9%

PRUDENTIAL, the UK insurance giant, yesterday reported a 1.9 per cent rise in worldwide new business. New weighted premiums rose from £1,165m to £1,187m in the year to December. UK business rose 13 per cent on the back of the first full-year contribution from Scottish Amicable, the insurer bought in 1997 which sells through independent financial advisers. New business was boosted by £1.3bn in savings ploughed into its new account, Egg.

SIUCH MARKETS							
FTSE 100	FTSE 100 DOW JONES						
6300 ————	9-00	13900					
6100	9300	13700					
5900	9200	13500					
5750 L	9100 ¥ j W T F M T	13200 W T F M T					

INDICES									
Index	Close	Change C	hange(%)	52 mk tágts !	52 with form Yi	eld{%}			
FTSE 100	6027.60	-96.30	-1.57	6195,60	4599.20	2.68			
FTSE 250	4874 60	-29.20	-0 60	5970.90	4247.60	3.39			
FTSE 350	2832.10	-41 00	-1,43	2969 10	2210.40	2.79			
FTSE All Share	2750 74	-37.95	-1,37	228E.52	2143 53	2.83			
FTSE SmallCap	2102.90	-3 10	-0.15	2793.80	1934.40	3.83			
FTSE Fiedgling	1177 50	4.30	0.37	1517 10	1046.20	4.25			
FTSE AM	808 10	<u>-4</u> 80	-0 59	1146 90	761 30	1.22			
FTSE Eurotop 100	2792.23	26.25	-0 93	3079.17	2018 15				
FTSE Surotap 300	1213.54	-10 ig	-0 23	1332.07	860 63	1.02			
Dow Jones	9273 35	-85,48	-0 92	9647.96	7400.30	7.65			
Nikkei	13770.44	-34.62	-0 25	17352.95	12787.90	1.05			
Hang Seng	10290.11	-112.43	-1.08	11926 16	6544 79	3 4 3			
Dax	5073 15	22 75	0.45	621783	3833.71	1.69			
5&P 500	1242 11	-3.45	-0.28	1276.05	923.32	1.28			
Nascao	2373.41	22 85	0 97	2396 30	1357.09	0 29			
Toronto 300	6763 20	-65.72	-0 96	7837 70	5320.90	1.60			
Brazil Bovesoa	7191.17	38.56	0.54	12339.14	4575.69	€ 33			
Belgium Bel20	3478.72	-7.63	-0.22	3713 21	2488.40	2 09			
Amsterdam Exch	548.88	4.67	98.0	600.65	366,58	1.79			
France CAC 40	4115.99	-35.69	-0.86	4404,94	2881.21	1.96			
Milan MIB30	35113.00	<u>-7</u> 74.00	-2.16	39170 00	24175.00	1.16			
Madrid Ibex 35	9971.70	-99.80	-0,99	10989 80	6869.90	1.86			
Irish Overall	5176.68	26.76	0.52	5581.70	3732.57	1.38			
S Korea Comp	618.12	<u>-4,40</u>	-0.71	651.95	277.37	0.98			
Australia ASX	2855.80	25.40	0.90	2902.90	2386.70	3,21			

INTEREST RATES									
SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND							
5.58 —————	4.31	5.16							
5.5A 5.50	4.27	5 12							
5.46 W T F M T	4,25 W T F M T	5.04 W T F M T							
at Spor. German money market rates equal euro rate									

MONEY MARKET RATES					BOND YIELDS				
1 <u>ndes</u>	3 month	of Chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chy	
UK	5.80	-1.82	5.45	-2.24	4.30	-1.78	4.27	-1.78	
IJS	4.97	-0.66	5.05	-0.64	4.68		5.12		
Japan	0 53	-0.19	0.54	-0.13	1.93	-0.01	2.94	0.37	
Germany	3.05	-0 50	2.99	-0.82	3.66	-1,41	4.63	-1.04	

CURRENCIES							
\$/£	€/£	¥/£					
1 660	1 430	190 ————					
1.656	1.420	189					
1 652	1410	188					
1,648	1,400	187					
WIFMI	WIFMT	W T F M T					
POUND		DOLLAR					

		-			_ ~ ~ P		
Dollar	1.6564	+0.38c	1.6383	Sterling	0.6037	-0.14p	0.610
Euro	1.4257	+0.16c	1.4079	Euro	1.1612	+0.06c	1.1669
Yen	188.43	-¥0.58	211.83	Yen_	113.78	-4 0.59	129.20
É Index	99.70	+0.00	105.50	S index	104.50	0.00	109.70
	0.1	HE	RIN	DIC	ATO	RS	

	Close	Citg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
Brent Oil (51 11.20	0.35	15.18	GDP	115,40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	286.15	-1.10	287.45	RPI	164.40	2.80	159.92	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.13	-0.01	5.77	Base	Rates	6.00	7.25	
l								Oll at Spm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE BLOOMBERG TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5 <u>194</u>	Mexican (nuevo peso)	16.67
Austria (schillings)	19.04	Netherlands (guilders)	3,0505
Belgium (francs)	55.96	New Zealand (S)	2,9503
Canada (S)	2.4582	Norway (kroner)	12.01
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8026	Portugal (escudos)	276.50
Denmark (kroner)	10.37	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0215
Finland (markka)	8.2602	Singapore (\$)	2.6572
France (francs)	9.0942	Spain (pesetas)	230.32
Germany (marks)	2.7210	South Africa (rands)	9.5692
Greece (drachma)	449.21	Sweden (kronor)	12.66

Switzerland (francs) 12.42 2.2271 Hong Kong (S) 1.0891 Thailand (bahts) <u>55.29</u> <u>lreland</u> (punts) 63.14 51<u>9303</u> Indian (rupees) Turkey (lirasi) USA (\$) 1.6138 6.2284 Israel (shekels) 26<u>96</u> italy (lira) 185<u>.41</u> Rates for indication purposes only Japan (yen) 6.0202 Malaysia (ringgits) Source: Thomas Cook

Shares plunge on fears that further defence consolidation in Europe will be delayed

Blair 'furious' over BAe's £7bn takeover of Marconi

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

The £7bn takeover of GEC's Marconi defence electronics arm by British Aerospace ran into double trouble yesterday after Tony Blair warned that it could slow the process of European defence restructuring and shares in the two companies plunged.

The Prime Minister's blunt warning was delivered to the chairman of BAe, Sir Dick Evans, and GEC's chief executive, Lord Simpson, at a private meeting on Monday evening. Lord Simpson, who was en-

nobled by the Labour government, indicated yesterday that Mr Blair had spelt out in the clearest of terms that he would have preferred to have seen a cross-border merger that included French or German partners. DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Dasa), which was in advanced merger talks with BAe until just before Christmas, said the BAe-Marconi deal would make horizontal European mergers "impossible and create an obstacle to European integration".

Sir Dick said: "The Prime Minister's views on this and other matters are very important to us."

But, despite a concerted effort to sell the merger to the Government and the City as a "win-win deal" that would benefit shareholders and accelerate the process of defence consolidation, shares in BAe and GEC fell by 14 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

This cut the value of Marconi

Denis Ranque, chief executive

of Thomson CSF, touched down at Heathrow airport and sped

straight to GEC's Mayfair head-

defence electronics group was

ostensibly in town for a private

business to attend to - a last -

itch attempt to wrest Marconi

from the hands of British Aero-

Mr Ranque said he was pre-

pared to raise his offer from the

f6bn already on the table. Lord

Simpson, chief executive of

GEC, listened politely, but the

French entreaties were to no

avail As Lord Simpson said

yesterday: "Marconi was the

pretty girl at the defence con-

solidation dance. While there

may be a Harvard Business

School case to support a Thom-

son-Marconi merger, the fact is

we could not agree either on

Later that afternoon the full

GEC board met and agreed to

sell Marconi to BAe. At 3am

yesterday morning the deal

was signed in the City offices of

It was a signal moment, not

industry but for the aerospace

SBC Warburg Dillon Read,

structure or price.

GEC's advisers.

it, and Germany is simply livid

'UK first' deal

that could set

Europe at war

quarters by chauffeur-driven a "UK first" approach to the re-

car. The head of the French structuring of Europe's aero-

Germany.

market.

just for the British defence mercial jets, howitzers and

AT LUNCHTIME on Monday By MICHAEL HARRISON

the stock market value of the as "threatening and an obsta- sales of £13bn and £33bn orders. and £440m of convertible loan combined business to £14br. Analysts said that apart from

"deal fatigue", the shares had been hit by fears that the merger indeed spelt the end of further European consolidation. that the 30 per cent premium paid by BAe was excessive, and that the savings from the merger would go to customers rather than shareholders. Sir Dick conceded that the

News Analysis: France doesn't like

the French were upset that

BAe and Marconi had opted for

space and defence industry,

the Germans were livid. Until

the reception was cool. "Jürgen

£33bn and sales of £13bn a year

encompassing everything from

submarines to Airbus com-

Tornado aircraft and Trident

expect," said Sir Dick.

cle to making progress" by other companies. But he said that consolidation could best be driven forward if there were

on Monday told Sir Dick that he would have preferred a cross-border European deal

Sir Dick Evans (right), BAe chairman, pictured yesterday with GEC chief executive Lord Simpson. Tony Blair

just one major player in each country. "The reality is that Europe can afford only one aerospace entity: " he added. The merger will create the

fourth-biggest aerospace and defence company in the world after Boeing, Lockheed Martin

BAe said there would be stock repayable over three cost savings of at least 2275m by the third year, which would lift earnings by 10 per cent. There would be job losses but BAe would not give a number.

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU engineering union, said the deal would secure thousands of jobs.

BAe is financing the deal with 1.17 billion new shares, a

years. Goodwill charged against profits could reach £7bn if BAe

treats the deal as an acquisition. There was speculation about how Lord Simpson would spend the 52.7bn cash pile the rump of GEC has. He rejected rumours GEC would bid for Racal Telecoms but indicated it hoped to do a big deal to strengthen its telecoms division.

COUNTDOWN TO CONSOLIDATION

approves \$9bn Lockheed/ Martin Marietta merger. May 1996: BAe and Lagardere of France form 50:50 missiles joint venture, Matra BAe Dynamics. December 1996: Boeing announces \$13bn takeover of McDonnell Douglas. January 1997: French confirm that Aérospatiale and Dassault will merge. December 1997: Raytheon acquires Hughes defence business for \$9.5bn April 1998: BAe pays 2269m for 35 per cent of Swedish aircraft maker

July 1998: GEC and Finmeccanica merge defence electronics arms. July 1998: France reveals plan to merge Aerospatiale and Lagardere defence interests and float 20 per

July 1998: Heads of six European countries back formation of single European aerospace and defence company: December 1998: BAe indicates it is poised for \$23bn merger with **DaimlerChrysler** Aerospace: GEC announces plans to demerge Marconi and intensifies talks with BAe. January 1999: BAe and Marconi merge.

WORLD'S LEADING DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE COMPANIES 238,000 521bn 100,000 Tomado, Hawk, Eurofighter 2000, Civil aircraft and other passenger centractor for NASA LOCKHEED MARTIN Employees Location Group sales \$9.38bn 38.263 173.000 Exocet missiles, Ariane space Trident missile, F-16 fighter jet. launchers, Airbus, Euroconter space, electronics RAYTHEON AEROSPACE Group sales Employees Location Group Employees Location S23.7bn 119.150 US \$8.54bn 43,521 UNITED STATES Airbus. Eurofighter, Eurocopter, military engines, space and fornahav/k and Patriot missiles. satellite systems NORTHROP GRUMMAN THOMSON-CSF Employees Location Employees 59.15bn 52.000 Components for B2 stealth bomber, defence electronics \$6.42bn 44,838 France



dinner, but first he had some a month ago, it had seemed certain BAe would merge not with Marconi but with Daimler-In terms of size, it will be Chrysler Aerospace (Dasa) of streets ahead of its nearest European rival, the state-When Sir Dick Evans, the owned French group Aerospachairman of BAe, broke the had tiale. On a global scale, it will news by telephone to his ophave only half the sales of Boeposite number at Dasa's parent ing, the biggest defence and company, Jürgen Schrempp. aerospace contractor But it will, for the first time, be withwas disappointed, as you might in sight of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, the two other US

But BAe shows no signs of defence leviathans, being fazed, either by the rip-More importantly, it brings ples it has caused across Eu-Britain's two prime contractors together in an alliance spanning rope or by the negative reaction its £16bn deal has received in both military platforms and the combat systems that go on them. As Richard Lapthorne, Downing Street and the stock With one bound BAe has BAe's vice-chairman, says: "Up become Europe's dominant until now, foreign defence condefence and aerospace comtractors have been able to play pany, with an order book of BAe off against GEC to their ad-

vantage. This stops that game." But there is a bigger question left hanging by yesterday's mega-merger. What is the end game? Will the BAcstate-of-the-art military radar. Marconi merger hasten the

creation of the European Aerospace and Defence Company (ÉADC) that Tony Blair and five other heads of government signed up to in July last year? Or will it split Europe down the middle, creating a Franco-German axis and pushing BAe closer to an American tie-up? Alex Ashbourne of the Cen-

tre for European Reform said: The EADC as originally planned is now dead in the water. It's very sad. BAe-Marconi is now such a powerful entity that it does not need the others. They won't admit it now, but they may well be more interested in transatlantic links than European ties." Not surprisingly Sir Dick

Evans takes a different view, saying that if anything it places BAe in a stronger position to drive European consolidation. "It helps enormously if just one major player speaks for each country."

Many in the market tend to agree. Despite the bellicose noises from Dasa, Chris Avery, aerospace analyst at Paribas. says: "I suspect that after some dalliances with France, Dasa will come back to the negotiating table with BAe in due course. BAe and GEC have concluded that shareholder interests are not best served by doing deals with French companies that are state-owned or sales of \$4.6bn, thanks in large part state-owned. Dasa will

learn the same lesson." Indeed others, such as Terry Taylor of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, believe the BAe-Marconi deal leaves the French in danger of being overrun by an Anglo-German-US alliance.

BAe would rather like to have it both ways. On the one hand it points out that the enlarged company will have "home markets in four other

France, Germany and Italy because of alliances already forged with contractors such as Matra of France, Finmeccanica of Italy and Saab of Sweden.

Radar and missile defence systems

On the other hand, Sir Dick is apprehensive about a "fortress Europe" policy developing. He points to the scale of business the enlarged BAe will have in the US, where it will have 18,300 employees and part to GEC's acquisition last year of the defence electronics

business, Tracor Given the brinkmanship that has characterised this first round of defence consolidation, it is impossible to second-guess the outcome of the next round. But it is hard to believe BAe will not be at the centre. Sir Dick likens the Marconi acquisition to BAe's sale of Rover five years ago. " That deal unlocked us from the past. This one opens up European countries - Sweden, an entirely new future.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

AFTER TWO days of gains blue chips fell back, ruffled by the Brazilian interest rate increase and the UK inflation rate. Footsie closed 96.3 points lower at 6,027.6 and supporting indices were also weak

The latest mega-deal left the two participants nursing sharp falls. British Aerospace, buying Marconi from the General Electric Co for £7.7bn, dived 68p to 425.5p, and GEC dulled 31p to 546.5p. Suggestions that the sale will prompt GEC to look for acquisitions boosted Psion and Racal Electronic

NEW YORK

SHARES FELL in morning trading in a volatile market characterised by big price swings. Traders were concerned by nervousness about the durability of the boom in Internet-related stocks.

The Dow Jones index initially rose on positive earnings reports from the banking sector and news of a multi-billion dollar merger between AtHome and Excite, two Internet stocks. But the shares were quickly sold in a bout of profit taking. At mid-day the Dow was down 88 points, or 0.94 per Derek Pain, page 21 | cent, at 9,252.53.

● |TOKYO

down 34.62 points.

THE JAPANESE market slipped as traders took profits on export stocks, amid fears the yen had fallen as far as it could. The Nikkei 225 fell 0.25 per cent to close at 13,770.44.

Car manufacturers, including Toyota and Nissan, weakened amid concern that the yen would bounce back from yesterday's level of 114.75 to the dollar, hindering their ability to export.

Sentiment was also affected by a fall in bond prices that pushed up yields by 13 basis points, raising the cost of borrowing.

HONG KONG

STOCKS fell by 1.08 per cent as overseas fund managers sold off holdings in utilities and red chips. The Hang Seng ended the day at 10,290.11, down 112.43 points.

Sentiment was subdued by reports that the HK dollar was next in line for devaluation. Amid thin volume, the market was also pulled down by futures-related

Brokers said European fund managers were still reducing their Ásian portfolios. This week any gains would depend on Wall Street, they said.

SAO PAULO

SHARES continued to surge in spite of expectations that investors would take profits after a two-day bounce. The Bovespa index rose 3 per cent in early trade, adding to gains of 40 per cent since Friday's decision to float the real

Traders said foreign investors were forced to buy locally, rather than withdraw money from the country, after the Brazilian central bank raised interest rates on Monday.

Brazil's currency, the real, is trading at 1.55 to the dollar, 22 per cent lower than a week ago.

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Charles his street

lerger to the state The second of the trade in the second hat the underlying Bent Tare to the same of the s the combine with any to a legitime a constituent to be period to its before the Minis element trade Mean the the Bank of are social trick on the one he on next month. Office for National Stahe the rise of the un-

the inflation rate was the inin prices of seascent align as possines - and and goods and incertained in prices of nonsecoid land largely due to the langer sales effect. the midden of the raise

Fielding Christmas as this hold at the start of the the in prices of seasonal Which increased by 6.3 the month - was pricaused by the poor

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المحداس الاصل

PENDENT January 1999

The rise in prices of seasonal hods - which increased by 6.1 per cent in the month - was primarily caused by the poor reather, says the ONS. In the

This was the best defence deal going

TONY BLAIR doesn't much like the BAe Marconi merger, and nor did the market greet it with unbridled enthusiasm yesterday. Even so, there are compelling reasons for believing this to be the best deal either company could have done, for shareholders, for employees and, for that matter, for the country.

The Prime Minister frets that the lack of a cross-border element to the merger will make it harder for him to show off his pro-European credentials as he cuddles up to other neads of government on the Continent. He wornies that BAe's "UK first" policy will slow the process of European defence integration.

But there are no prizes for guessing who would have borne the brunt of any job cuts in a cross-border deal. The French talked boldly about slicing £500m off the cost base of a merged Thomson-Marconi business. Given that it is 20 per cent more expensive to employ someone in France and even more costly to sack them, it is obvious where the axe would have fallen.

Perhaps that is why the unions, amongst others, leapt to the defence of BAe when not so long ago this would have been the sort of deal that had them manning the barricades.



OUTLOOK

The plunge in BAe's share price will undoubtedly have given Sir Dick Evans pause for thought yesterday. Some of the fall is explained by deal fatigue, and the premium is certainly fancy - Marconi is departing GEC on an exit multiple of 27 times earnings. But again the reaction was probably overdone. Had BAe allowed Lockheed or Thomson to snap up its biggest supplier from under its nose. the damage to shareholder value might have been far greater.

Deprived of the opportunity to play GEC and BAe off against one another. it is the Americans who have most to worry about as far as the European field of battle is concerned. As for Energis? All kinds of ingenious ex-DaimlerChrysler Aerospace, it can

zontal merger with BAe being dead in the water. But when it sees how poorly its own shareholders might be served by joining forces with its state-influenced French counterparts, who would bet against it suddenly finding an ally in BAe again?

NatGrid/Energis

NATIONAL GRID was once an unrecognised and unloved organisation, a hidden treasure buried within the 12 regional electricity companies that owned it. Eventually the City and the Government realised it might be worth something and forced a demerger. The years passed and then all of a sudden it emerged that there was another treasure lying Russian doll-like inside the Grid - a telephone company that ran its cables along the Grid's electricity pylons. They called it Emergis and floated a quarter of its equity on the stock market.

This was always going to be a controversial means of value recognition. Why not follow your own path to stock market independence, free market purists asked, and simply demerge cuses were tabled, but essentially it

fulminate all it wants about a hori- came down to this quite basic line of reasoning - because National Grid, having given birth to Energis, wanted to keep some of the potential upside in the stock for itself.

In a way, it has been proved correct. The telecoms sector has soared and with it, Energis. The Grid's remaining 75 per cent stake has come to account for more than 40 per cent of its total stock market value, and everyone, the Grid's management included, has been able to bask in its warm glow. Time, then, to sell some more. Fortunately for the Grid, there can be no question of a demerger this time round. Having already sold some of the company, the tax impli-

cations would be horrendous. But essentially it is still the same old thing. David Jones, the Grid's laconic chief executive, just cannot let go. The Grid's bankers are even creating a convertible bond, backed by the Grid's own cash flow, to allow the Grid to participate in the poten-tial upside of the shares they are selling. Since disposing of another 25 per cent will allow Energis to qualify for the FTSE 100 Index, this could be

quite considerable. Given how much money he's made for his investors, nobody's going to quarrel too much with Mr Jones about all this. Who knows? There may be another Russian doll or two yet to be moulded out of the £1.2bn the Grid will receive from this

All the same, there is a certain lack of logic about the Grid's position. As quickly as it sells out of Energis, it is investing in exactly the same sort of telecom ventures elsewhere, most recently in Brazil. There is an obvious conflict of interest here that won't finally be resolved until the Grid is out of Energis altogether

Central bankers

SO WAS it worth waiting for? Yes-terday saw publication of the European Central Bank's first monthly bulletin, a 92-page tome which will, according to the ECB, become one of its "most important means of written communication".

In theory, therefore, the bulletin ought to carry at least as much clout as the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report, essential reading for anyone active in the UK markets. In practice, the ECB bulletin is nothing of the kind. Yesterday's issue was a combination of public relations puffery and largely historic eco-

the ECB's view on recent economic developments or the likely level of future European interest rates, it was little short of useless.

This shouldn't come as much of a surprise, given the opposition of Wim Duisenberg, ECB president, to improving the transparency of European monetary policy. Mr Duisenberg has rejected calls for the ECB to follow the example of the US Fed and the Bank of England and pub-

lish the minutes of its meetings.

He also seems to have eschewed the established practice of using public speeches to signal changes in interest rate policy. Just days before December's co-ordinated cuts in European interest rates, for example, Mr Duisenberg was intimating to all and sundry that there was no immediate need for interest rates to fall.

As a result, financial markets now take everything the ECB president says with a large pinch of salt, including the assertion in yesterday's monthly bulletin that European interest rates are now at about the

One reason why Mr Duisenberg has chosen to shroud the ECB's decision-making process in secrecy is

nomic analysis. As a guide to either that this is the way things were always done at the German Bundesbank, a model independent central bank with an "inflation-busting" reputation superior even to that of the

> Certainly you cannot quarrel with the Bundesbank's record, so who are we to challenge its methods? Times change, however, and what may once have been appropriate for Ger-many hardly looks like doing the trick

for Europe as a whole. The Bundesbank could get away with not talking to the market for one reason, and one reason alone - its impressive track record. Bundesbank officials had a long history of keeping inflation under control and firmly resisting political pressure. The same is unlikely to be true of the

The short history of the ECB to date has been marred by political fudge, most visibly over Mr Duisenberg's own appointment as its president. If the ECB is ever to enjoy the same reputation as the Bundesbank, and if Mr Duisenberg is going to be able to soothe troubled markets as effectively as that doyen of central bankers, Alan Greenspan, transparency and communication have to

National Grid in £1.1bn Energis sell-off

By Peter Thal Larsen

NATIONAL GRID moved to cash in on the soaring value of tele-conductors yesterday by reducing its shareholding in Energis, its fast-growing telecom subsidiary, from around 75 per cent to below 50 per cent.

National Grid will offer between 71 million and 75 million Energis shares in the form of shares and convertible bonds to institutional investors in Europe and the US. Dealings are expected to start once the offering closes next Tuesday.

The move will raise approximately £1.1bn in cash, allowing National Grid to reduce its debt levels in the wake of last month's \$3.2bn acquisition of New England Electric System, the US electricity distributor.

David Jones, chief executive of National Grid, said the sale would also increase the free fless of Energis shares, satisfying demand from investors keen to buy into the telecom sector and allowing the com-pany to be included in the FT All-Share index.

Energis shares duly soared 9 per cent, closing up 132.5p at 1655p in a falling market. Energis has watched its shares rise fivefold in the past 12 months on the back of booming data communications and Internet traffic, including its deal to provide the infrastructure for to raise between £500m and



David Jones, chief executive of National Grid (left), with Mike Grabiner of Energis

Internet service provider

The sale follows National Grid's announcement last year that it planned to sell down its shareholding in Energis over a three to five-year period. Under the current deal, it is not allowed to sell any more shares in the market for six months.

In a complex offering designed by HSBC, the investment bank, National Grid plans ever, they will also carry a

Dixons' innovative Freeserve £800m by placing Energis cent, which will be paid by shares directly with institutions. The remainder of the proceeds will come from the sale of convertible bonds based

on Energis shares. Each bond, which will mature after four years, will convert into a proportion of an Energis share dependent on how much the shares have risen since the offering. How-

coupon of between 5 and 6 per

Mr Jones said the bonds were designed to broaden the appeal of Energis to other investors, many of whom do not invest in the company because it does not pay a dividend.

The entire exercise is expected to trigger a capital gains tax bill of about £200m for National Grid, while advisers' fees will cost a further £30m.

Outlook, this page

Sotheby's looks for Net profit with a leap into cyberspace

SOTHEBY'S, the venerable auction house with a 250-year history, took a startling leap into the cyber-future yesterday, announcing the creation of sothebys.com.

The company hopes to tap millions of new customers who may prefer mouse-clicking over paddle-waving when bidding for art, jewellery and

Also yesterday, At Home Corp, a California company that specialises in delivering high-speed Internet connections to private homes in the United States, revealed that is to buy Excite Inc, the owner of one of the most popular portals on the World Wide Web for a stunning \$6.7 billion in

If completed, the At Home fledgling Internet enterprises, cess of eBay, while not men-tomers.

By DAVID USBORNE in New York

transaction will be largest single deal in the history of the Internet, eclipsing the America Online's recent purchase of Netscape Communications three months ago.

At Home will be paying nearly double Excite's market value, put at about \$3.4bn at the close of trading last

Both announcements offered fresh illustration of the ongoing explosion of consumer and investor interest in all things do to with the In-

Recent weeks have been marked by soaring prices among stocks offered by

most of which have yet to tioning it by name. make a dollar in profit.

One company that has been turning profits is eBav. which has led the way in taking auctions into cyberspace and has become one of the most popular destinations on the Web where consumers enter bids from their PC's for articles for sale.

Among the measures of eBay's success has been its market valuation. Listed publicly only last September, it now has a market value six times that of Sotheby's.

"With the launch of sothebys.com, Sotheby's enters an exciting new era", said Diana Brooks, president of Sothe-

by's, in New York yesterday. She made a nod to the suc-

"It is clear that the Internet is superbly suited for holding auctions," she remarked.

The pressure will now be on Christie's, the longtime rival of Sotheby's, similarly to take the cyber plunge. An important beneficiary of

the At Home deal, meanwhile, will be AT&T.

The giant telephone company, which is anxious to harness the Internet, is in the process of acquiring Tele-Communications Inc. which itself has a large share in At

Though it trails Yahoo! among the pioneers of portal sites, Excite should none the less prove powerful in at-

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

December 1998



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Term Loan Facility

Hopes of rate cut fade as inflation overshoots

Brazil raises interest rates

WORLD STOCK markets were warned of longer-term dam-

PRE-CHRISTMAS high street BY LEA PATERSON price rises pushed inflation AND DIANE COYLE above target for the first time for five months, according to fig-

ures released yesterday. News that the underlying inflation rate hit 2.6 per cent in December, combined with evidence of returning consumer confidence, was poorly received in the City. Sterling rose to its highest level yet against the euro during afternoon trade amid fears that the Bank of England would hold fire on

interest rates next month. The Office for National Statistics said the rise in the underlying inflation rate was largely attributable to the increases in prices of seasonal food - such as potatoes - and

housenoid goods. Analysts said the marked rise in prices of household goods was largely due to the pre-January sales" effect. street retailers often raise Acces before Christmas as this clows them to advertise sharp reductions at the start of the

same period in 1997, seasonal

food prices rose just 2 per cent. City economists said the inflation figures - which also revealed that the headline rate sank to a seven-month low of 2.8 per cent - could provide the

Bank with an excuse to leave rates unchanged next month. However, several analysts emphasised that the overall trend in UK inflation was still downwards. Most expect the underlying rate to fall below tar-

get later this year. Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Securities said: "We still expect

shaken yesterday by the sur-

prise increase in Brazilian in-

terest rates on Monday night.

sion to raise the prime lend-

ing rate from 29 to 41 per cent

and the benchmark TRAN

lending rate from 36 to 41 per

cent achieved its aim of help-

ing to stabilise the Brazilian

currency. However, analysis

The central bank's deci-

RPIX (the underlying inflation rate) to drop below target as weaker costs push goods inflation into negative territory and slowing activity eases price

pressures in services." Fresh evidence of reviving consumer confidence also dented rate-cut hopes. GfK, the market research company, said confidence rallied in January following a string of interestrate cuts by the Bank.

The GfK confidence barometer was minus 3 in January, up from minus 8 in December. Like other market researchers, GfK said that although consumers were gloomy about the general state of the economy,

age to economic growth.

Share prices fell in London

and New York, where in-

vestors were worried by re-

ports that seven Brazilian

states were threatening to

trading modestly higher in

relief that the central bank had

Brazilian share prices were

default on federal debts.

stemmed the real's slide.

the outlook for their personal fi-

GfK, which carried out its research on behalf of the European Commission, said there had been a sharp rise in employment intentions in businesses in the service sector.

There was fresh pressure on the Government yesterday to switch to an inflation target based on the harmonised European price index. It will be publishing this inflation measure alongside retail prices from next month,

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Treasury Spokesman, said the Chancelfor should consider announcing the switch in his March Budget. The British Chambers of Commerce will also urge this move m its Budget submission.

Separate figures yesterday showed that the Government borrowed more than the City had expected last month. The Public Sector Net Cash Requirement (equivalent to the old Public Sector Borrowing Requirement) was £3.2bn. But City experts still believe that the Government will easily meet this year's borrowing target of

(3)

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Carlton pays \$150m for film library

CARLTON, the media group run by Michael Green, has bought the rights to a clutch of television programmes and films including classic titles such as Thunderbirds and The Eagle has Landed.

The rights are part of the ITC library, which Carlton bought from Seagram, the Canadian drinks and music group. for \$150m yesterday.

The library, formerly part of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, includes more than 300 films and 5,000 hours of television. It increases the size of Carlton's existing portfolio. which includes the Carry On films and classics such as Brief Encounter, by more than 50 per

The television library was originally built up by Lew Grade, the legendary television mogul who created programmes such as the The Soint for ITV in the 1960s. The films Hinclude titles such as The Boys from Brazil Sophie's Choice and Farewell My Lovely, starring Robert Mitchum.

By PETER THAL LARSEN

"The ITC library fits perfectly with our growing collection of television programmes and films," said Mr Green. "It gives Carlton even more to sell to the rapidly expanding number of channels world-wide. We have always believed that content is king and the ITC library is a jewel in the crown."

Analysts estimate that ITC has annual revenues of approximately \$30m and operating profits of about \$10m. The deal does not include Carlton taking on any of PolyGram's sales staff.

"This has been a long time in coming," said one observer. If anything the price is at the lower end of what Seagram thought it would fetch." In a falling market Carlton shares closed down 6p at 536p.

Carlton will be able to use the library more efficiently by selling it through its existing distribution network. The films and programmes will also help fill Carlton Cinema and Carlton

are available on the ONdigital television platform, the pay-TV venture jointly owned by Carlton and Granada,

The sale is another step in the break-up of PolyGram's films division - best known for making blockbusters such as Four Weddings and a Funeral and Trainspotting - after the larger PolyGram music business was sold to Seagram by Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, last vear. The Canadian group initially wanted to sell the film unit as a single division but took it off the market after the offers it received were disappointing.

Seagram has subsequently sold other parts of the library to MGM, the film studio, for \$250m. However, yesterday's deal does not affect PolyGram's production and distribution businesses, which are being integrated into Seagram's Universal Studios division.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of March. subject to approval from regu-



Robert Mitchum in Farewell My Lovely - part of the ITC Library

Marston avoids bid stalemate

MARSTON THOMPSON & Ever- BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA shed, the regional brewer, has found a way to avoid an embarassing stalemate in the twoway bid battle with its West Midlands rival Wolverhampton & Dudley.

In the offer document to be posted to shareholders today, Marston is expected to say that if W&D's £262m hostile bid succeeds, it would withdraw its £330m counterbid.

The statement clarifies one of the main uncertainties created by Marston's decision to turn on its suitor with a hostile offer - the so-called "Pac-Man defence".

This highly unusual strategy leaves open the possiblity that both firms could claim victory in their respective bids, declaring their offers unconditional with more than 50 per cent of acceptances. City ob-

servers believe that such an outcome could plunge the bid battle into utter confusion as no one would be able to tell whose

company had control.

The decision by Marston, famous for its Pedigree bitter and Pitcher & Piano pubs, to withdraw if W&D wins, will be welcomed by the two companies' shareholders, who had been puzzled by the Pac-Man defence.

The move came as the Office of Fair Trading came under renewed pressure by W&D to refer the Marston bid to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission. W&D claims that Marston's plans to close W&D's breweries in Wolverhampion and Hartlepool and to leave the production of W&D's Banks's bitter to Bass would give Bass a dominant position in the Midlands.

IN BRIEF

Struggling Albert Fisher issues fresh profits warning

ALBERT FISHER, the struggling food group which replaced its chief executive in the autumn, issued another profits warning yesterday. It said management figures for the first four months of the financial year are "substantially below" last year. The company is experiencing difficult trading with a "stock overhang" of warm water prawns affecting the seafood operations. Separately, the company has announced the sale of its Fisher Quality Foods business to Unigate for £43m. Fisher is a supplier of sauces and dressings supplied mainly under retailers' own labels. The proceeds will be used to reduce debts. The shares fell 0.75p to 6.5p.

Yorkshire blocks carpetbagger

YORKSHIRE Building Society has blocked an attempt by Michael Hardern, the carpetbagger, to get elected to its board and force it to become a bank. He failed to get the required 50 signatures from qualifying members to stand for director. A resolution urging the society to distribute free shares to members was also found to be invalid.

Bid for Dagenham acceped

DAGENHAM MOTORS, Britain's biggest dedicated Ford dealership, has accepted a long-awaited £28.3m takeover offer from Polar, the joint venture between Ford and the Jardine Motors dealership. It represents a premium of about 33 per cent on top of Dagenham's stock market value last September, when a potential offer was first announced.

Telekom profit rises 27 per cent

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM reported a 27 per cent rise 1998 posttax profit to 2.15bn euros after halving its losses in overseas investments, directory inquiries and telephone equipment business. However, sales only rose 3 per cent to 35.6bn euros as deregulation and price competition eroded its market share in long-distance services. The shares rose 6.9 per cent, to a record closing high of 37.30 euros.

Body Shop revamp to follow profit warning

BODY SHOP is expected to BY NIGEL COPE announce a radical overhaul of its struggling business next week after another profits warning yesterday pushed hares in the "green" cosmet-rose on relief that it had not as retailer close to an all-time experienced a Marks & low. The warning came as Debenhams, the department

Dawn TBI Dusk Holdings (1) 32,563m (25,963m

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Associate City Editor

store group, also reported a dip in sales, although its shares Spencer-style "meltdown" Body Shop said group like-

COMPANY RESULTS

4.4p (5.6p) 5.29p (4.25p) 33.8p (26.5p) 1.5p (1.2p) 17.6p (15.2p)

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for-like sales in the 10 weeks to January were 2 per cent down on the same period last year. Sales in the UK and US were 6 per cent and 9 per cent lower respectively. The company said it would make a further annonncement next week on the management's plans to "re-

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shape" the company. Analysts believe this could include factory closures in America and significant job losses. The Christmas trading

statement added that although

group sales to date are 4 per cent up on last year, the fullyear profit outcome will be below market expectations. It blamed a shortfall in Christmas sales in the UK as well as lower wholesale sales to head franchisees as they cut back on stock levels. Analysts have reduced their forecasts from about £32m for the full year to

In the UK, Christmas sales pany private.

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sonal accessories, although Christmas gifts sold well. In the US, Christmas sales were "disappointing" because of an "inadequate" product offering in a highly promotional trading environment. Patrick Gournay. chief executive, said the reorganisation of the US business was continuing, with costs being cut and marketing benefits starting to come through.

The fresh warning pushed Body Shop shares 4p lower to 85p. They stood at around 150p in 1995 when the founders. Anita and Gordon Roddick, hatched plans to take the com-

Debenhams said the clothing market had been "difficult" but that sales of Christmas gifts were up by 30 per cent. Designer merchandise and es had also do

to improve their relations with

the City, although this has not

been reflected in the share

Debenhams shares rose by

10.5p to 350.5p on relief that its

figures were not as bad as had

been feared. In the 20 weeks to

16 January its sales fell by 2.5

per cent on a same-store basis

compared with last year, with

analysts saying the fall was

respectable given the perfor-

mance of its rivals.

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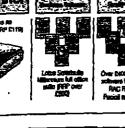
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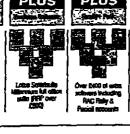
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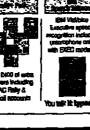




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| 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | - 4065 | 1450 | 1020 | Britannic | 2797 | 244 | 518 | Legalitation | 1866 | 958 | 358 | Revealch Britannic | 1865 | 333 | 175 | 51 | 1877 | 54 | 1416 | 669 | 424 | Sant He & Prov. | 1416 | 650 | 422 | Ud Assacs GOVERNMENT SECURITIES 101.35 100.68 Tay 75 01 107.95 101.49 Tay 75 02 107.86 101.89 Tay 9.25% 02 | 200.66 | 75.06 | 75.01 | 25.01 | 204.29 | 0.11 | 1.01 | 34.64 | 75.06 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 75.05 | 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Cresspis 110 Adam&Harvey source: Bloomberg 1 Ass & Sec. 42 Seyes: (C) Seyes: (C) Beaung/Over 28 Bayed Sey 304 Seyes 275 Carlys 120 Cavertals 21 Control (DC) 100 Degree 100 Debron Sey 100 Debron Sey 100 Debron Seyes 120 Cavertals 100 Debron Seyes 120 Cavertals 100 Debron Seyes 120 Dean Motor 300 Seyes 120 Dean Motor 300 Seyes 120 Dean Motor 120 12 SHARE PRICE DATA HADA DS.OF Con 9% II 372 M6.39 D6.71 Tay 974 D 200 JD.44 94.72 Tay 5.5% D Ter BS D 60 102.0 47.4 Top 2.75% 6

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المحدا س الامل

Internet

Zergo a

deals give

30% boost

SHARES IN Zergo leapt 30 per

cent yesterday after the sup-

plier of software that allows

people to conduct secure In-

ternet transactions unveiled a

series of strategic partnerships.

with Intel, the US computer

chip giant, while also striking a

strategic alliance with Price

waterhouseCoopers, the con-

sultancy firm, to sell its

products in Europe and the

share price up by 162.5p to

702.5p. The shares have risen

more than fourfold since the

beginning of December on hopes that Zergo will cash in on

the booming market for com-

merce conducted over the

Last month Zergo merged

with Baltimore, its Irish rival,

in a move that made it the

world's second-largest suppli-

er of Internet security soft-

it releases processors for the

Under the terms of its deal

The news drove Zergo's

Zergo is forging closer links

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

STOCK MARKET profession-

als, who should have waxed

rich on the flow of mega-

mergers which have sent

shares soaring, concentrated

on a more mundane deal.

worth a mere £230m or so.

which has simmered for a

few weeks, that House of

Fraser's days of indepen-

dence were coming to an

The department store

chain's shares climbed 15.5p

(after 17.5p) to 88p, highest

A venture capitalist bid

was one guess; another sug-

gested Shami Ahmed, the

entrepreneur behind the Joe

Bioggs jean empire, who has

already shown interest in

a sitting duck for a takeover

strike. It has a poor trading

record and assets are

thought to be worth around

180p five years ago; they did

touch 228.5p at one time but

WEEKS, the engineering

consultant where interim

profits fell to £300,000.

£809,000), believes the

stockbroker Ellis &

Partners. The shares

1.5p since coming to

Neil Badger says the

should manage a year's

figure of £700,000 (against

they have been as high as

market in 1997. Analyst

shares' poor performance

is understandable after

missed expectations but

be believes the price has

fund manager Phillips &

Drew, active in Mr Green's

assault on Sears, has 22.3 per

cent of HoF and, as in the

case of Sears, would dearly

like to see at least some of

the lost value restored to its

the fund managers were

mulling over a bid of 100p for

their stake; the price the

bidder is prepared to offer for

HoF was only one sec-

Service, the vehicle group up

23.5p to 384.5p, was another.

£7.7bn Marconi acquisition

from General Electric Co

also produced thoughts

GEC's possible

The British Aerospace

the rest of the shares.

One suggestion was that

investment.

now fallen too fâr.

The shares were floated at

since the autumn.

predator,

180p a share.

They alighted on a story.

ENDENT

·

50,720 38,200

targets. Psion, the hand-held comaround 45-49 per cent. Once puter maker, was regarded its stake goes below 50 per as one likely candidate, gaincent the telecom group being 75.75p to 726.5p. Another comes eligible for Footsie thought to be under possible inclusion. GEC scrutiny was Racal The shrinking Grid stake Electronic, 18.5p higher at will also increase the possibility of Energis forging al-BAe's Marconi deal did liances with other groups. not go down well. The market FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES Country Spot
UK 1.0000
Austrafia 2.5937
Austria 19.631
Belgium 57.550
Canada 2.5366
Denmark 10.511
Euro 1.4268
Finland 8.4824
France 9.358
Germany 2.7903
Greece 460.69
Hong Kong 12.836
Ireland 1.1236
Ireland 1.2836
Ireland 1.2836
Ireland 1.2836
Ireland 1.7007
Necherlands 3.1439
New Zealand 3.0895
Norway 12.331
Portugal 286.01
Saudi Arabia 6.2170
Singapore 2.7871
South Africa 10.0155
Spain 237.37
Sweden 12.824
Switzerland US OTHER SPOT RATES

INTEREST RATES Repo(Ave) 3.40% Japan Discount 0.50% Base 6.00% European Central Bank O/N Marginal3.25% 3.50% Switzerland
Discount 1 00%
Lombard 3.00% O/N Facility 2.75% Repo 3.00% 7.75% Discount 4.50% Fed Funds 4.69% 6.75% Country 3 mith chg Australia 4.67 0.01 Belgium 3.02 0.00 Canada 4.63 0.01 Euro 3.05 -0.05 France 3.05 -0.05 Germany 3.05 -0.05 Izaly 2.96 0.00 Japan 0.28 0.01 N'lands 3.05 -0.05 Spaln 2.90 -0.10 Sweden 3.61 0.00 4.67 -0.10 2.91 0.00 4.87 0.03 2.99 -0.03 2.84 -0.05 2.99 -0.03 2.93 0.00 0.35 0.01 4.92 0.02 3.42 0.00 4.86 0.02 3.23 -0.01 3,20 0,00 3,11 0,00 3,29 -0,01 1,22 0,08 0.56 0.02 2.94 -0.02 2.90 -0.02 3.05 -0.05 2.90 -0.10 3.19 -0.01 3.34 -0.02 2.85 -0.02

inaden Sland JK JS			5.45 4.26	0.00	4.81 4.59	-0.01 0.07 	4.40 0. 4.56	.01	4.30	0.01 0.01 0.00 1 -0.05	!
				i week Bid Offer			3 months Bid Offer				
reasury E JBOR Comestic Grosteria Ligible Ba Rerling Cl Grodollar Suro Libor	Depos ng Depo nnk Bilk Ds CDs	s 5.81	10.00 5.94	5.94 5.81	5.88 (5.97 : 5.80 : 5.90 : 4.81	6.00 6.00 5.94 5.70 5.82	5.55 5.50 5.80 5.80 5.72 6.66 5.75 5.69 5.60 5.50 5.66 5.58 4.83 3.05 3.05	5.53 5.53 5.35 5.45 4.84	6.47 5.53 5.25 5.35	5.416.3 5.385.4 5.325 2	4

5.00 0.01 3.66 -0.01 3.76 -0.02 3.66 -0.01 3.90 -0.02 1.93 0.12

INVESTMENT

Somerfield keeps the City doubters at bay

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket By NIGEL COPE group which merged with Kwik Associate City Editor Save last year, said yesterday that the integration of the Kwik Save stores was on track and sales in its Somerfield outlets were encouraging.

Reporting doubled profits before exceptional items to £113.8m in the six months to November, the company said it had started the conversion of the Kwik Save stores to the Somerfield format. It is also expanding its petrol forecourt deal with Elf to open up to 50 more stores over the next 18

months, creating 1,500 new jobs. Somerfield, which walked away from a merger with the Booker cash and carry chain in September, said a Booker deal was no longer part of its plans. "It's not on our radar screens," said David Simons, chief executive. However, he refused to rule out a possible deal at a

later stage. It is deals that have transformed the Somerfield share price since its troubled launch on the stock market in August 1996. The shares soared on the back of the Kwik Save merger as the market warmed to the potential cost savings and buying efficiencies.

Though the City has been

pace with industry leaders such as Tesco and Asda, US investors. in particular, have concentrated instead on the company's strong cash generation, US investors now account for more than a

third of Somerfield's equity. Yesterday's figures kept the doubters at bay once again, though like-for-like sales have slowed and the Kwik Save stores are being run for cash. Like-for-like sales at the Somerfield fascia were up by 3.4 per cent in the half, but this has slowed to 1.7 per cent in the eight weeks over Christmas

At Kwik Save sales are down by 3.1 per cent on a same-store basis. However, the company said it would stop reporting like-for-like sales for the chain as they are no longer a prime consideration. It will concentrate instead on squeezing profits higher ahead of their ultimate conversion to Somerfield.

Ten of the Kwik Save outlets have been converted to the Somerfield format with a further 53 to change over the next four months. The Kwik Save head office in Prestatyn has been closed with only 100 of the 800 workers being offered jobs

SOMERFIELD: AT A GLANCE Market value:£2.1bn, share price 431.5p (+5.5p) 97 3.2 Pre-tax profits (Em) 92.0 60.8 15.2 10.4 11.4 Sales per square foot Share price 500 450 350 300 250

150

The Food Giant stores have already been converted to the Kwik Save format. But though Mr Simons and his team insist the number of store closures will remain at 130, analysts believe the final number will be higher and that other underperformers will be closed.

The management task of integrating nearly 900 Kwik

BLUE CIRCLE

share price, pence

be under-estimated, though

On full-year forecasts of

management has done well so

£221m the shares - up 5.5p to 431.5p yesterday - trade on a with Intel, Zergo will develop products to conform with a seforward rating of 13. Though the curity standard the US group company has its supporters, Paul Smiddy at Credit Lyonnais has designed. Matthew Bow-Laing is not impressed. "You cock, Zergo's marketing direccould buy Safeway shares at the tor, said the deal put the company in a good position to supply software to Intel when

electronic commerce market. The PwC agreement, meanwhile, will lend the consultancy group's muscle to Zergo's condition. Heavy debt burdens Public Key Infrastructure prodhave been compounded by a ucts when developing elecslump in demand for cement

tronic commerce solutions. and heavy building materials as Industry observers wel-Asian economies slowed. At comed the announcements, but said they did not immediately the interim stage, Blue Circle's profits in Malaysia and Sinadd a great deal to Zergo's gapore more than halved as prospects. "In order to crack it in this market you have to crack it in the United States," Analysts predict that the downturn will deepen in the said George O'Connor, an analyst at Granville, who rates the second half, with the fall in deshares a hold. "Our concern is mand for cement set to widen that we want to see these guys from 26 per cent in the second actually go out and win busi-Asia's contribution to group ness in the US."

He added that the market in half and now accounts for just the shares seemed frothy after vesterday's rise, which lifts over 5 per cent of Blue Circle's £1bn-plus interim turnover and Zergo's market value to almost £200m. However, he said much attention to conventional valuations. "People are buying into a concept," he said.

sceptical about the company's at Somerfield's Bristol head-Saves with Somerfield's own ability to grow sales and keep Blue Circle fights off Asian fever

BLUE CIRCLE, the building By Francesco Guerrera materials group, is meeting top analysts to warn them that 1998 profits will not meet some expectations, it emerged yesterday. The veiled profits warning caused a sharp slide in the company's share price, which shed 7 per cent in the two days.

The company's finance director, James Loudon, is engaged in a whirlwind tour of the Square Mile to brief 30 brokers ahead of the results announcement on 29 March. Mr Loudon is understood to have explained to analysts that a £600m-plus acquisition spree in Asia in the second half of 1998 would hit Blue Circle's earnings

in 1998 and this year. out its joint venture partner in Associated Pan Malaysian Ce-

ment producer, for £185m. In October it acquired the secondlargest cement maker, Kedah, for £351m, followed by a £135m swoop on a number of companies in the Philippines.

A source said: "We are explaining fully how our recent acquisitions are going to dilute earnings in the next couple years." The warning is believed to have prompted some analysts to consider cutting predictions for 1998 earnings by up to £10m to about £315m.

Rumours of the briefings filtered out on Monday. Blue Cirde's shares, which fell out of the FTSE 100 in September, went closed down 10p at 271p, fol- Blue Circle buy at bargain contributed more than 8 per lowing a 10.5p slide on Monday.

company was paying the price of increasing its exposure to the crisis-ridden Asian economies. They said that although the turprices, some of the companies cent of turnover and 10 per cent Industry experts said the bought were in dire financial of operating profit.

The logo consists of a brick with two blue dots on it. And all the new subsidiaries have been relabelled "Hanson". No doubt

cement sales slowed sharply.

half to around 35 per cent.

finances plummeted in the first

4 per cent of its £142m operat-

shareholders will be delighted with this expenditure.

Off to Boston

Mr Persaud's parents hail

from Barbados, while his

brother and sister have made

equally high-profile careers in

Cosmopolitan_

Deep trouble

ONE OF THE songwriting trio that brought you hits by Kylie Minogue and Rick Astley in the 1980s is suing London Underground for up to £20m for alleged property damage.

Mike Stock, formerly of Stock Aitken Waterman, claims that the highest rated currency antunnelling work for the Jubilee pose of the maggots was not to alysts in the City, is leaving his Line extension has damaged feed the fish, but rather to lure job as head of currency rethe sound insulation of his stusearch at JP Morgan (formerdio, which sits above the turnel. ly UBS) to go to Boston to According to The Lawyer magwork for Putnam Investments, azine, he is also suing studio deone of the oldest and largest signers Munro Associates for an money management firms in allegedly inadequate design.

Greg Dyke

YESTERDAY I referred to Greg the UK. His brother Raj Per-Dyke, a director of Pearson, as saud is the in-house psychiatrist a former head of Channel 4. Mr on the daily This Morning show Dyke is in fact a former direcwith Richard & Judy on ITV, and tor of Channel 4 and a former also does a regular column for group chief executive of LWT.

And their sister Sharda Per- If you have any news you wish saud looks after EMU issues in to share with "People and Lco.uk.

feeding stuffs a	also benefit fro		London to come up	the research department at Paribas.	Business," please e-mail j.wilcock@independent.co.uk
LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				INDUSTRI	AL METALS
Contract	Sertleme	ent High Low	Est floor Open volume interest	LME (5/tonne) Cash Chg	3 month Chg LMEstods Chgx
5 Yr Gilt German Bund Italian Bond Japan Gowt Bd 3 Mth Sterling 3 Mth Euromark 3 Mth Euromark 3 Mth Europen 3 Mth Europen	Mar-99 119.31 Mar-99 108.85 Mar-99 117.43 Mar-99 130.02 Mar-99 130.02 Mar-98 94.45 Jun-99 96.98 Mar-99 97.04 Mar-99 97.04 Mar-99 97.04 Mar-99 99.33 Mar-99 98.68	94.92 94. 97.00 96.9 97.05 97. 97.20 97. 99.35 99. 98.70 98.1		Aluminism HG 1227.5 1228.5 7.00 Aluminism Alfo 1025 1030 -3.00 Copper A 1450 1451 3.00 Lead 487.5 488.5 -4.50 Nickel 4350 5170 95.00 Zinc 930 931 -0.50 PRECIOU pm flu/S per oz	Day's Year's che che
3 Mth Euro Libor FTSE 100			5944.00 00 22961.00 172622.00	Palladium 322.50 5.50 91.50 Palladium 19: Silver 5.13-0.01 -0.64 Silver Gold 286.50-0.25 -0.75	4.30 2.75 53.00 50s 72.04 3.10 0.00 -0.51 Nobles 386.05 Maple Leaf 292.95 -13.02
5950 262 34 6000 234 33 6050 205 33 6100 181 32 Brent Crude(\$/ban IPE Last* Chy Vo Mar 11.05 0.262314 Apr 11.12 0.04 266	Vol Put Imp Vol 220 33 241 30 262 33 289 25 ENJE[rel]Gas off[S/ronnel 4 PE Close Cing 6 Feb 99.00 250 8 Mar 100.25 2.00 0 Apr 101 75 1.50	Vibi NYM Last (7255 Feb 12.42 (3426 Mar 12.52 (658 Apr 12.57 (May 12.70 (1 Put Call Put 5 395 501 454 5 395 501 454 2 443 440 493 5 467 410 513 arrell Products (S/tonne) The Spot Cif NW Eur 129 Gasoline 95 117.00 130 Naphtha 99.00 130 Gasoli 90.00 126 Fuel Oli (3 5%)62.50	Mar99 902.00 Jan991650.00 Jan99 Mar99 921.00 Mar991675.00 Mar99 Vol: 0 Vol: 0	E/tonse UFFE/forme CBOT 5/5k 79.75 Mar99 250.00 Apr99 524.50 80.25 Apr99 308.00 May99 524.75 81.00 May99 316.00 Jun99 530.00 0 Vol: 0 Vol: 0 Corn* Lge Potatoes 5/tonne CBOT Cents/John ATA 5/25k kg 74.00 Mar99 211.50 Jan99 31.50 74.00 Mar99 212.50 Mar99 19.35 76.00 Jul99 223.50 Mar99 32.50 0 Vol: 0 Vol: 0
GOLDMA BASE D Index 1970= Agricultural 1970= Energy 1933= Ind Metals 1977= Livestock 1970= Prec Metals 1973=	ATTE LAST 100 134.74 100 178.44 100 44.75 100 127.16 100 156.52	CHG %CHG -0.38 -0.26 -4.68 -2.55 -0.73 1.65 -1.31 -1.02 -1.90 -1.20 -1.08 -0.28	31 DEC %CHGYTD 215,26 -37.41 231,23 -22.83 85,86 -47.89 168,79 -24.66 191,03 -18.07 463,54 -17.88	OTHER SP	OTS AT \$120 PXX Mar White Maize SAF \$/100 mt 627.00 Jan Rubber (TCM) 1/7 5k kg 82.90 Mar Cotton (CTM) 5/50k kb 59.26 Mar Soya Cal (CBT) 5/60k b7 23.10 Jun Waolien Varn (TCM) \$/500kg 1165.00

Fraser shares cash in at least some of its MARKET Energis chips as telecom shares stretch into the REPORT stratosphere gave its shares a modest electrical charge -

Bid rumours

boost House of

PAIN

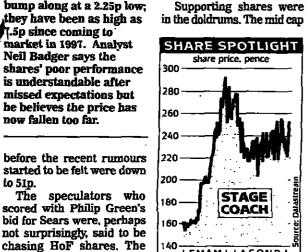
took the view it had overpaid and also made vital European defence alliances much more difficult to achieve. The shares dived 68p to 426.5p. GEC did not escape the disenchantment, falling 31p to

quoted companies, was the 546.5p. HoF has the somewhat Profit-taking was, of dubious distinction of looking course, a factor in the response to the Marconi deal. and after the sharp gains of the last two trading days could be blamed for some of

Footsie's 96.3 points plunge to 6,027.6. The slide in Vodafone, off 102.5p to 1,123p, was largely due to the games arbitrageurs play. Seaq put volume at nearly 82 million

shares, with arbs selling to keep their positions in line. Once again market turnover was high, nudging 1.1 billion, as Footsie swung between a 14.8 gain and a

107.5 fall. Supporting shares were



JEMAMJJASONDJ index fell 29.2 to 4,874.6 and

the small cap 3.1 to 2,102.9. The latest flurry of takeover rumours was not confined to the market under-card. P&O, the proud shipping line, steamed 14p (after 30.5p) to 629p on vague bid talk, and Granada, off 40.5p to 1,059.5p, was said to market believes the would-be be on the verge of another strike. The brewer and leisure group Whitbread

ond-line share under the but the shares lost 22.5p to speculative spotlight. Lex 803p. Energis was at one time 270p higher before settling for a 132.5p gain at 1.655p as the group emerged as a likely candidate for Footsie membership. National Grid intends to cut its shareholding from 75 per cent to

Citybus buy, moving ahead 10p to 250.25p. Debenhams, following an encouraging trading statement, put on 10.5p to 350.5p but more gloomy tidings from Body Shop produced a

up 17.75p at 545.25p.

Stagecoach, the trans-

port group, continued to ben-

efit from its Hong Kong

4p fall to 85p.

Boots, hit by BT Alex Brown cutting its profits forecast by 6 per cent to £544m, dropped 43p to 887p. City Centre Restaurants. reflecting sobering Christ-

mas trading, fell 5p to 72p. Blue Circle Industries lost another 10p to 271p as analysts downgraded following meetings with the company. It seems profit forecasts have been cut by

around £10m to £315m. Diageo, the spirits giant, was another under the analytical whip. Its shares suffered a 12p hiccup to 670p

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the chemical group which returned to the market four years ago, edged ahead 2p to 63.5p as speculation continued that a management buyout was planned. At one time the shares topped 200p and were riding at 191.5p in the spring. The group, like others in the chemical industry, bas found the going tough but profits are expected to recover to

as HSBC put them on its sell

£53.5m from last time's

depressed £31.7m.

Compass, the contract caterer, improved 15p to 797p with Sutherlands saying buy performance over the past year. The sugar group Tate & Lyle was sweetened by

CSFB, up 13p to 392p. Media shares continued to flutter on the bid interest in Mirror, little changed at 206.5p. Newsquest rose 16.5p to 284.5p and Informa 14p to 316p. Freepages, on its Internet prospects, gained a

further 2p to 23.75p. On-Line's remarkable run continued, with the shares, 16.5p at the start of last week, jumping 39p to 172.50. There is a growing was one name in the frame suspicion that the computer games group will eventually use its share price strength to tap the market for cash, possibly through a rights

Dagenham Motors moved ahead 9.5p to 158p as Polar Motor, a joint company formed by Ford and Jardine Matheson, produced its bid. Dagenham is Britain's largest

Ford dealer. Flextech, the TV group, rose 38.5p to 753.5p after Merrill Lynch lifted its target from 745p to 660p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.01 billion SEAQ TRADES: 83,479 GILTS INDEX: 116.13 +0.03

www.bloomberg.com/uk

ment, Malaysia's leading ce-A large sum of Monet

MONET IN the 20th Century", which had its press day at the Royal Academy in London today, is the latest blockbuster art exhibition to be sponsored by Ernst & Young, following the accountancy firm's success with "Picasso Sculptor-Painter" (1994), "Cezanne"

(1996) and "Bonnard" (1998). And while Monet's waterlilies and views of the Thames at the RA form E&Y's biggest ever sponsorship, the firm's partners also found the cash to back a major David Hockney exhibition in Paris, opening

this week. So, I asked Nick Land, E&Y's UK chairman, how

much is all this costing? "I hate to think what it all comes to," Mr Land said. Well, how about the annual budget for arts sponsorship? "I honestly don't know - hundreds of thousands - not into the millions a pretty sizeable slug."

Not the kind of accuracy

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

By John Willcock

with figures one would expect from a senior accountant. Wriggling out

FROM HIGH ART to maggots. Ernst's accountancy rivals at PricewaterhouseCoopers are concerned by the VATman's decision on whether maggots sold as live fishing bait from vending machines could be considered to be food because fish eat them, and thus zero-

rated for VAT purposes. Deborah Sharp, a VAT specialist at PWC, says it is a serious issue: "It is well known well known that certain animal

bunal concluded that the pur-

them to the fisherman, says Ms

Sharp. "As a result of the ruling,



sales of all such maggots will be subject to VAT at 17.5 per cent." Designer label

HANSON, the building materials rump left over from Lord Hanson's empire, has been buying companies like mad, mostly in the US. This has left Hanson with a host of US subsidiaries, all with confusingly that food for humans is mostly different names. The company zero-rated. It is perhaps less has paid half a million pounds to the design consultancy



SPORT

'Last season I had to show that I could not just be good in a good situation, I could be good in a bad situation'

Ginola finds love at the Lane



THE BRIAN VINER INTERVIEW

AS EVEN Des Lynam might testify, it is hard to sit next to David Ginola and not feel distressingly uncool. He glides into an Italian restaurant near the Spurs training ground in un-fashionable Chigwell, Essex, flirts briefly with waitress and greets me with a crushing handshake.

He orders a pizza quattro formaggi. I follow suit. Ginola eats his with his fingers, expertly, making a neat envelope of each gooey slice. I try to do the same. Pretty soon, my chin is a study in molten cheese. Ginola remains immaculate, naturellement.

He turns 32 next week yet is playing better than ever. Against Wimbledon on Saturday, nobody could touch him, although four times he claimed someone had, and four times was denied a penalty. The verdict on Match Of The Day was that Ginola - the divine David - suffers badly from the Sarah Bernhardts. Trevor Brooking even urged Des Lynam to have a word. And Ginola might even listen. "He is fantastic. on and off TV, a great lad, I really enjoy him." says Ginola of Lynam.

'My first touch and the ball stays at my feet. It looks simple, but I work 20 years to get the ball to stick at my feet'

On the Internet, there is a Web page devoted purely to anagrams of David Ginola, and one of them, "O! A diving lad," might have been coined by the Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear Just before Saturday's kick-off, Kinnear called to the referee, pointed at Ginola, and made a diving motion. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that burst of psychological warfare, it showed that Kinnear - like every other Premiership manager - is scared stiff of the Frenchman's ability to turn a match in one dazzling moment.

But it is getting more difficult for me," Ginola, says. "It is no longer one player I have to scare off. Now there are two or three. So I must find a solution." He smiles. He wants me to know it is hard work being a ge-

"Some players, they receive the ball and on the first touch it goes one or two yards. So they have to fight to keep it, and people say "My God, he is working hard. My first touch and the ball stays at my feet. It looks simple. But I work 20 years to get the ball to stick at my feet.

Of course. But his father was a decent amateur player and young David had uncommon skill even before it was refined at Toulon, Racing Paris, Brest, Paris St-Ger-



the same, football very nearly lost out to his other boybood passion, skiing. "When I was 14 I had to decide between them. I was a very good skier. Now, I am not allowed to do it. And anyway, we don't get a break in

the winter. It is a shame. It is the best

sort of family holiday." Ah, the family. Ginola's agent, a stern Frenchwoman, has warned me practically on pain of castration not to ask any personal questions. Also, I am on no account to mention "ze Houllier episode," a reference to the present Liverpool manager who, as coach of the French national team, made Ginola a scapegoat for France's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup. Against Bulgaria, you will recall. Ginola gifted the ball

to Kostadinov, who scored the goal

it is Ginola himself who brings up "ze Houllier episode". And he needs no encouragement to talk about his up-

He grew up just outside St Tropez, where his grandmother was a close friend of Brigitte Bardot. The Ginolas were not particularly well off. Father worked in a factory making torpedoes, mother worked for France-Telecom. He misses the South of France terribly. "I miss the people. I miss the smell of the pine trees. I miss living outside. Here, you live inside. But it is my decision to come here. Nobody pushed me. My mother says to me, how is the weather?' and I say 'awful.' So she says, David, you must always keep some sunshine in your mind. And we are waiting for you.' They are all

to return to his village."

If the White Hart Lane faithful have their way, it will be a lengthy wait. Judging by the roar that greets his name when the team is announced, Ginola is every inch the favourite that Klinsmann, Gascoigne and Hoddle were. "That's true," says NI7's blue-eved boy. "But at first they were asking a lot of questions. I have had to build the love of the fans. Last season I had to show that I could not just be good in a good situation, I could also be good in a bad situation."

The bad situation has retreated now that George Graham has returned to north London, and Ginola is keen to stress how much he and the manager respect each other. When Graham's appointment was

soon be waving adieu. Ginola gives a contemptuous, very Gallic "pah." The first thing Graham told him, he

says, was to ignore such speculation. "And now he tells me that in the last 30 yards I can do whatever I want. But he also teaches me this." Ginola clenches a fist. "To be strong. To have force. It is important for me to know a manager can take me to the top. He can, Christian Gross was not strong enough. Also, he was alone. He needed people with him from his own country. Look at Arsène Wenger. He has French people everywhere at Highbury."

Ginola is on good terms with most of Arsenal's French contingent - lunch is interrupted while he takes a call on his mobile phone from Emmanuel Petit's wife. But like his sweetest footballing memory

has few soulmates in the game. Conversely, there are plenty with whom he does not see eye to eye. His enmity with Arsenal's Lee Dixon dates back to his days at Paris St-Germain. And, as he euphemistically puts it, "I do not share the same point of view with Alan Shearer."

When Spurs played Newcastle and Shearer fouled Ginola, "I got up and told him he was too great a player to have to do that." Needless to say, the backhanded compliment was not graciously received. "Alan gets very frustrated when he doesn't score, when he doesn't get so many balls," adds Ginola. "He will kick out. It wasn't me on purpose."

Ginola, of course, was once the toast of St James' Park himself, and remains Newcastle's 5-0 Premiership demolition of Manchester United. But it might never haves happened if Johan Cruyff had taken him from PSG to Barcelona. "I talked to Cruyff at his home after a game of golf with him. Imagine. When I was a boy Cruyff, with Platini, was my idol. And he said he wanted me in his squad, but he asked me to wait until Hagi was sold. I waited and waited and waited. Then Newcastle came in and Eric [Cantona] had told me it was fantastic playing in England, so ... '

So Ginola went to Tyneside, but felt betrayed when Kevin Keegan left. shortly after persuading him to reject another approach from Barcelona, this time from Bobby Robson. "I have always had this dream of Barcelona, but Keegan said 'don't go' and now he was leaving." He did not hit it off with Keegan's successor, Kenny Dalglish - "I need to be loved, I need affection, Daiglish did not even talk to me" - and in July 1997 was sold. Absurd as it seem? now, only Gerry Francis at Spurs was prepared to meet Newcastle's

£2m asking price. This season, Ginola has been playing so well he is an early contender for the Player of the Year award. And yet he dismisses his chances of getting back into the French team. "It is a young team. I don't think so." Obviously he was overjoyed, I say, when France won the World Cup, but was his happiness tempered with regret that he was not part of the team? That, at any rate, is my intended question,

but Ginola interrupts. "What? Overjoyed? No, it way, awful. Awful. They stole my dream. After the game, I was at the top of the stadium with Gary Lineker and Ally McCoist, and I was very quiet. They said there was a BBC party, but I went

'My boy is seven. He is not bad at football but he is better at golf. I will encourage him to be in an individual sport'

back to my hotel and stayed there. Everyone was outside enjoying themselves. I was in my room watching TV. It was awful. Why? WHY?"

I have no answer to the considerable conundrum of why Ginola and before him Eric Cantona were ditched by France, and I dare not bring up ze Houllier episode. Instead, I ask whether he will stay in football when he retires as a player. He has, after all, other job options, as an anti-landmines campaigner, a model for L'Oreal shampoo, not to mention broadcasting. There is a long pause, "I don't know. I don't think I will be a manager. I don't think I will be able to compromise with players. But you never know. I have had some film scripts. I have had one from [the great Spanish director Almodovar So maybe I will

"You know, my boy is seven. He is not bad at football but he is better at golf I will encourage him to be in an individual sport. That way, you win as yourself, you lose as yourself. With my mentality, it would have been better for me." Ginola shrugs. "In France against Bulgaria, there were 11 of us playing, but it was my fault." I say that I was told not tog-mention France v Bulgaria. He smiles. "It is OK now," he says.

The lady doth protest too much

Sir: I read with incredulity Ms Sue Donato's letter about the "crisis" at Crystal Palace (13 January). The Eagles are a club with a notoriously fickle following who realistically cannot hope to support a premiership side on their attendances. As for her comment about being "long suffering", long suffering is supporting Brighton or Hull City or any one of a dozen clubs struggling to survive in the lower reaches of the

Football League. Clubs such as Palace cannot hope to hang on to genuinely good players although how Jansen can be described as such after only half a season in the top flight is beyond me. £4m for a player who hasn't played international football, and is hardly setting the First Division alight this season, is a vastly inflated figure and Palace were well advised to take the money and run. As they did with Wright, Armstrong and Southgate before him

It is precisely this sort of uneducated fan that forces clubs such as Palace to get "ideas above their station" and leads them into financial difficulties. Lombardo. Padovano Ystradmeurig, Dyfed

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

ings that cannot be sustained by a small club such as this. N J BALDWIN

Dirty teams should play short-handed

Sir: If football's powers that be are genuinely determined to stamp out foul play, the solution seems simple. If a team has a player suspended for a game then it should have to play that game with 10 players. If it

has two players suspended, it should

turn out with nine players and so on. Managers would soon learn to place a premium on players who can play the game AND keep it clean. A side benefit for the fans might be to see an 11-man Middlesbrough or Derby side have a clean game against a seven-man Arsenal Could

and Brolin spring to mind as signthe upper house

Sir: We should have sent a bevy of Law Lords over to Australia to supervise the recent Ashes series. Every time the coin came down on a side that looked unfavourable to England, they could have asked for a re-spin. When at last it looked promising they could have asked for play to commence. If still it looked as if we might lose, they could have cup competitions, in the context of asked for the umpire's finger to be chopped off. PETER PORTEOUS.

Chaos would follow from OFT victory

Chichester, West Sussex,

Sir: I refer to your Leader "Football will win if we defeat this cartel" (12 January). The direct consequence of your preferred outcome to the Of- P KELLY, fice of Fair Trading case would be Burton-in-Kendal, Cumbria.

contractual chaos followed by a BSkyB league of a dozen selected teams and the demise of the Football Association. You think there would be every opportunity then to redistribute broadcasting income?

The sport's governing bodies are exactly the right entities to negotiate broadcasting deals for the sport be-cause individual clubs have no product to sell except their team shirts and mugs. The "product" is football matches in the context of league and promotions, relegations and trophies.

Individual teams' popularity would not survive long out of this context; they would quickly go the way of the Harlem Globetrotters. If you are worried about the dominance of rich clubs, you should perhaps ask Manchester United fans what they care about most - the fact that they are the richest club in the country, or the fact that their trophy cabinet is bare.

TV would gain from club-by-club deals

Sir: In the current case involving the OFT and the Premier League I am inclined to side with the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, and the Football Task Force led by David Mellor. They claim that the OFT may upset a beneficial arrangement if it rules against the current contracts between the Premier League and TV companies. They could be right but I'm afraid that either way it will be the ordinary fans who lose out, as usual, and the TV companies will

Time was when football matches were played on Saturday afternoons. weekday evenings and the occasional Bank Holiday; fans packed on to crowded terraces. Now all-seater grounds provide less accommodation. it is difficult to get match tickets - even if you can afford them - and fans have to suffer erratic scheduling for the REV GRAHAM BEARDSLEY benefit of TV. I am a season ticket Holy Spirit Vicarage. Liverpool

holder and attend home League fix-tures at Anfield. But although I can obtain a ticket for the Cup tie between Manchester United and Liverpool this weekend. I cannot go because it is on

a Sunday - at 12 noon. Victory for the OFT will mean further confusion, further disruption of match-scheduling and the introduction of Pay-per-view TV (which seems inevitable anyway). I can't afford Sky and although I enjoy watching a match in the pub, where the atmosphere is often like that on the terraces of old, Pay-per-view will further reduce this opportunity. The loyal fans seem to be the last people to be considered today and the football moguls are not the only ones to get it wrong. The recent enthronement of the new Bishop of Liverpool was scheduled on a Saturday afternoon at 3pm. In Liverpool, in Football City'. Which just goes to show that the Church is equally out of touch with reality.

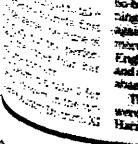
Never mind 2000. let's turn clock back

Sir. I believe that almost all the changes made in football over the last decade – the Premier League, the Taylor Report, Sky - have been for the worse. While I have nothing against the players making more money, it seems that the more money poured into the game, the lower the quality of the product we get in return. Yes, I would like to turn the clock back to the days of bigger crowds standing on terraces. I would also like to see the entire league programme played on Saturday afternoons again. MARK TAHA

Good luck to Smith

Sir: What a delight to see Steve Smith back in training after his injury (14). January). Like most field athletes, his hard work and dedication go largely unrecognised. But throughout his period of recovery he has maintained his Liverpool humour and kept a positive outlook. Here's hoping the 2000 Olympics in Sydney will reward all his years of hard work.

GERARD HUNT Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.



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Cricket: Authorities are desperately slow to act as a region's premier sport hurtles towards terminal decline

Time running out for W Indies Caribbean laments

in Johannesburg

NDEPENDENT (

THE CHICKENS - and, in light of the recent surrenders, it is not an inappropriate analogy have come home to roost for West Indies cricket.

The signposts along the way to the humiliation of the 5-0 whitewash in South Africa were plentiful and distinct. Yet the West Indies Cricket Board, its members fearful of upsetting their own insular constituencies and divided among themselves, took no heed of them.

After the fifth Test defeat on Monday, the captain, Brian Lara, blamed, among other things, the lowering standards of domestic cricket in the Caribbean. But they are certainly no lower than in New Zealand, Sri Lanka or Zimbabwe and cannot possibly explain why a team including Lara himself, a record-breaking batsman of rare gifts, Carl Hooper, a quality all-rounder of great experience. Shivnarine Chanderpaul, the left-hander with a Test batting average of over 40, and two great fast bowlers. Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, with over 700 Test wickets between them, should have been so thoroughly trounced in their last eight Tests overseas - three in Pakistan late in 1997 and now five

The more credible reason is the blatant lack of discipline that has been allowed to go unchecked and has become deep-rooted in the team and its performances. How quickly, and effectively, the Board deals with it will determine how quickly the West Indies can recover from the psychological blows it has taken over the past four years.

That means making diffipult decisions, about the structure of the team, about star players who have repeatedly performed below their best and, not least, about whether Lara. so frequently the centre of controversy and disciplinary action, is the leader the situa

Time is short. The Australians, even stronger and more unforgiving than the South Africans, arrive in the Caribbeau in a month's time for seven one-day internationals. Another débacle, on home soil. would further undermine a cherished institution already losing some of its passionate popularity in the Caribbean.

It is finding stiff competition as football, with role models like Dwight Yorke and Jamaica's Reggae Boyz", gets stronger, as American sport infiltrates through the omnipresent satellite television and as traditional lifestyles become more

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Hansie Cronje, the triumphant South African captain partly credited his team's revival after their upsetting loss in England last summer to the strong and swift action of their Board who called in the team and "let us know it was time us players realised the responsibility of wearing the green and gold of your country... for they felt there were times that we really could have done a little bit better."

The West Indian boot was on the other foot. It was the play-



Ridley Jacobs leaves the field as South Africa's Jacques Kallis (right) and Herschelle Gibbs celebrate sending West Indies to their first 5-0 Test series defeat on Monday AFP

to Heathrow Airport in No vember where they flexed their muscles with their demands that placed this politically significant tour in jeopardy. The upshot was that they asserted their own control here everywhere but on the field.

Throughout the series, it was obvious they had not trained as bard as they should and that, as with Andy Roberts before him, Malcolm Marshall's advice as coach was being ignored. Several of the players were clearly overweight, the fielding bore no comparison to the brilliant South Africans and the indiscipline was reflected in poor shot selection, bowling repeatedly too short for the conditions and a clutch of

schoolbovish run-outs. Such developments should come as no surprise. As far back as 1992, well before the West Indies' proud record of 15 invincible years was ended, Malcolm Marshall, still one of the finest fast bowlers in the game, quit prematurely. He could sense the coming danger

ers who summoned the Board and warned in a newspaper in advice and revealed that he lowing the Board's rejection of It has been embarrassed with an fundamental problem terview: "Evervin be going down the drain. There to take the field after a break in that the incumbent Walsh after another, causing it a loss

is no respect, no manners." His assertion was clear from the behaviour of several of the most prominent players. Yet, when the coach of the time, the former captain Rohan Kanhai, reported to the Board that some had no respect for him

Zealand, it was Kanhai who was

Roberts, the great fast bowler

in teams in which pride and dis-

inherited. He publicly com-

plained of players with "attitude

problems", asserted that the

fast bowlers paid no need to his

cipline were the watchwords

He was replaced by Andy

He was appalled by what he

fired, not the offenders.

play in a Test against Australia The upheavals within the team in England in 1995, when

Lara, even then coveting the captaincy, mounted an unsuccessful campaign against then captain, Richie Richardson, and left the team in a buff, and

public on a tour of New year when Richardson even- the seeds of destruction" and

tually resigned under pressure

and the hapless Roberts was

sacked as coach, were further

It obviously needed urgent

surgery but the Board did noth-

ing. Instead, it was divided by

dermining furore last year fol-

At the height of another un-

internal squabbling.

clues that the cancer was

the selectors' recommendation should be replaced as captain by the Trinidadian Lara, the Trinidad and Tobago Board, one of its affiliate members. charged that there was "a calculated plot to tarnish the image and international reputation using Brian's past indisand had verbally abused him in in the World Cup the following cretions as the basis for sowing

said it would "stand in defence

of its captain, national hero

and its world-class performer".

Rousseau, a Jamaican busi-

nessman with no cricketing

background, came to office on

a wave of expectation in 1996,

heading a "new dispensation".

promising dynamic change. It

has proved a disaster.

The Board president, Pat

left his talents underutilised and openly frustrated that he has not been allowed to be more involved. Its efforts to improve its relations with the players, main-It is finding stiff competition as football, with role models like Dwight Yorke and Jamaica's 'Reggae Boyz', gets stronger, as American sport infiltrates and as traditional lifestyles become more sophisticated

ly through a US\$150,000 (£90,000) grant to the formation of a permanent players' association headquarters, have been shattered by recent events. The region's governments have paid only lip-service to

by one administrative fiasco

of public respect and confi-

dence. It recalled Clive Lloyd,

the universally respected cap-

tain of the invincibles of the

1980s, as manager but gave him

terms of reference that have

much-needed financial support for a sport that has become increasingly more professional and more costly to administer. And, bowing to public pressure, the WICB appointed to positions of leadership, Lara and Hooper, the two players with the longest disciplinary records against the names. It

was a peculiar way of dealing

of indiscipline. In short, West Indies cricket is in turmoil.

Lara claims there are no alternatives to those who have played under him here and it cannot be denied that there is not the available talent that allowed the West Indies to field separate, and successful. teams for Tests as well as for Kerry Packer and the debarred South Africans in the late 1970s

But the A team, under the strong leadership of experienced fast bowler Ian Bishop, won its series over its Indian counterpart in India six weeks ago and the solitary individual success in South Africa has been the wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs, at 31 on his first tour and with no previous experience outside the Caribbean.

and mid 1980s.

That should be something for the Board to chew on when it considers the shaky future of a sport that has been so enriched by West Indian excellence and is now devalued by its sorry decline.

fall of its heroes

By CRAIG COZIER in Barbados

THE WEST INDIES press lambasted their beleaguered cricket team the day after South Africa formalised a 5-0 series sweep with a 351-run trouncing at Centurion on Monday.

"Whitewash!!!" screamed the banner headline on the back page of the Daily Observer of Jamaica. "Whitelash" cried the Daily Nation of Barbados on its front page yesterday, despite the presence of a general election the next day. The Barbados Advocate also preferred the Brian Lara's team's demise to coverage of the election. "SA bury West Indies" and "Worst drubbing in 70 years" were emblazoned across its front page. Its editorial carried the headline "Utter disgrace" and "Time to clean the stables" and was strong in content. "The fault does not lie with [captain] Brian Lara alone... It takes more than the wrongheadedness of this prima donna to sink West Indies to their first ever 0-5 whitewash, a worse defeat than when we first entered the Test arena."

"Too many players went to South Africa with a bad attitude." the editorial stated, referring to the players' strike in November which threatened the tour. "Maximum productivity is always unlikely in an atmosphere of flagrant hostility between employee and employer."

In Trinidad, the effect was similar. "Disunity bowled us out" contended the Daily Express on its front page, while the Guardian was more sympathetic with "Windies whitewashed" on the back. The Guardian, though, carried some depressing sentiments from David Rudder, the composer and performer of the now famous West Indies cricket anthem "Rally Round The West Indies". Rudder, a fervent cricket fan, expressed fear for the future of the region's team in a column titled "What Now, West Indies?"

"I remember [Clive] Lloyd's team with Viv Richards getting the same kind of treatment as Lara's team after losing to the Australians 5-1 in 1975-76," said Rudder "After that series the West Indian team said 'never again', and we dominated cricket for the next 20 years. What is scary about now is that the substance of the Caribbean man is so diminished. I don't know if these youngsters have ever said 'never again'."

The Express editorial also found little hope for the future. "What, then, can be done to prevent an ODI encore?" it asked. under the headline "Retween rock bottom and a harder place". Its answer: "Short of finding a Viagra-like pill that will restore lost prowess overnight, the answer, sadly, is nothing.

"And waiting for them is not some healing retreat high up in the Blue Mountains or on the beach at Blanchisseuse but four more taxing Tests and seven onerous ODIs against Mark Taylor's world champions. It is enough to tempt stronger men than captain Lara to retire to the mountain top."

*Cairns blasts century in 75 balls

CHRIS CAIRNS hammered the fifth fastest one-day century in history to guide New Zealand to an emphatic 70-run win over

India in Christchurch. Cairns, after surviving a caught behind appeal on 51, hit 115 and helped New Zealand to 300 for 8 off their 50 overs. India crashed from a promising start to 230 all out in 45.3 overs and the one-day series finished

match in front of 15,000 people. Cairns hit his second limitedBY PHIL MCINTYRE in Christchurch

overs century in 75 balls and 99 minutes and it included five fours and six sixes.

"I got a great reception when I came to the wicket and it was great to repay them." said Cairns. "It was my day out there and I'm glad to have taken advantage of it. I got on a roll out there and I got to 97 Playing in his 100th one-day and I thought I would try and milk it and get the ton." When he was finally dis- that went on the rampage.

missed, Cairns had played the significant part in New Zealand scoring 121 off the last 10 overs. He was fortunate to escape being given out caught behind on 51 to what appeared a clear edge off the medium pacer Robin Singh. The Indian captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, reacted by throwing the ball into the ground and the Indians did not applaud his hundred or when he left the field. Cairns had another let-off when dropped on 75 by Nikhil Chopra but after

dred belongs to Pakistan's the boundary on enough occa-Shahid Alfridi, who took 37 balls against Sri Lanka in Nairobi in 1996-97.

India momentarily threatened New Zealand's total when their openers Saurav Ganguly and Ajay Jadeja added 50 in 47 balls. But when Ganguly was out for 60 in 50 balls, the runrate slowed and wickets fell at regular intervals.

The fastest one-day hun- of 63, but he was unable to find sions. When Azharuddin was total on 202 the innings disintegrated.

> The medium pace bowler Chris Harris was chief beneficiary in the closing overs, picking up three late wickets to end with 4 for 40 off 9.3 overs. FIFTH ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

Peristohurch) New Zealand 300-8 (50 ers. C I. Calms 115, R G Twose 63. Azharuddin gave his side a bottle 230 (43,5 overs. S C Ganguly 50: C Harris 4-40).

glimmer of hope in the middle of the innings with a fine knock runs. Series level 2-2.

seventh out for 63 with India's INDIAN POLICE have arrested 14 people and are making plans to take over cricket stadiums as part of extraordinary security measures for the Pakistani national side's first tour of India for

more than a decade, it was reported yesterday. Seven activists arrested on Monday night were affiliated with the Hindu far-right Shiv Sena party and worked with a private airline at New Delhi airport, where the Pakistani team is scheduled to arrive tomorrow, the Press Trust of India news

agency quoted police as saying. A further seven people were arrested after throwing bottles and shouting anti-Pakistani slogans outside the Pakistan embassy in New Delhi yesterday. Pakistan are scheduled to

play two Test matches in India. at Madras, beginning on 28 January and New Delhi, starting on 4 February. A spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket in India said the tour would still go ahead despite protests by Hindu militants. But the BCCI has decided to move its headquarters from Bombay, where suspected

office on Monday. The headquarters are to be moved to Calcutta, on the other side of the country in West Bengal.

Shiv Sena objects to any attempt to improve relations between India and Pakistan while the latter supports insurgency in the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, which currently belongs to India. The official Pakistani line on the issue is that it only provides moral and diplomatic support to Muslim militants fighting for Kashmiri independence.

The political tension has prevented the Indian and Pakistani cricket teams from playing one another, and although they met in - and jointly staged - the 1995 World Cup, they have not contested a Test series in either country since Pakistan toured India in 1987, when the

visitors won the series 1-0. While the visit of the Pakistani cricket team is the subject of considerable debate, there are plenty of people determined not to allow the tour to be sabotaged by right-wing activists. An opposition party legislator has been on manding the arrest of those who vandalised the BCCI offices while yesterday, there were also street protests in the city against the attack. "Watching cricket is our democratic right," demonstrators chanted.

In Bombay, Shiv Sena denied responsibility for the BCCI attack. "We condemn the incident When we do something we admit it; when we haven't, why should we?" Raj Thackeray, a leading party figure, said.

But Shiv Sena has admitted responsibility for vandalism carried out on the New Delhi stadium where the second Test will be played, while police say they have discovered a note, signed by a Shiv Sena activist, threatening Pakistani diplomats. Police have said they will be in sole charge of security in the stadiums for each Test match

Cricket is by far the most popular sport in both India and Pakistan. The two countries have fought three wars in the last five decades since independence from the British, and continue to dispute territory, with exchanges of gunfire still common Hindu nationalists ransacked its a hunger strike in Bombay, dealong their shared borders.

England A seek bowling improvement

quick answer to their pace found his rhythm, going for 51 bowling problems when they take on Mashonaland in Harare today in the first four-day match of their tour of Zimbabwe and Plouth Africa.

Melvyn Betts has yet to take the field after the tourists' first two one-day games because of a groin injury, but the performance of the other four has

caused some concern. Jason Lewry did take 3 for 32 from his 10 overs in the vic-

did take the first wicket of the There were 13 wides and two

no-balls during the District's innings, while the second game, against an Academy XI, saw more wayward bowling from England and another 13 wides and eight no-balls before it was abandoned because of a storm.

This time the perpetrators were Paul Hutchison and Steve

overs cost 23.

Preparation has not been ideal for the quick bowlers as net sessions have been disrupted by the wet weather. Furthermore, both Hutchi-

son and Harmison have been

suffering from stiff backs, while the pitches have not favoured pace bowling, being understandably soft after all the rain. The captain, Michael Vaugh-

his five erratic overs still cost cover quite quickly. I think the from eight overs although he 16 while Harmison's three seamers need a bit more bowling in the middle, like the batsmen, but the spinners have had a good bowl."

Vaughan has looked the part as captain so far exuding an air of quiet authority, handling the side well in the field and playing two important innings. But the opposition over the

next four days will be strong. Led by Test captain Alistair Campbell, the brothers Grant and tory over a Country Districts XI Harmison. Hutchison only con- an, said: "We've got a few sore Andy Flower are in his team, as XI in Kwekwe.

ENGLAND A need to find a but Darren Thomas never ceded five runs off the bat, but backs and hopefully they'll re- are Murray Goodwin and the Nottinghamshire and Zimbabwe leg-spinner Paul Strang. England A will wait to select

their XI until they know the

state of the pitch and to assess

any outstanding injury doubts. Betts is close to fitness and it is possible that the tourists could go for five bowlers, with Graeme Swann at six and wicketkeeper Chris Read batting at seven. Whoever misses out in this match will play in the next one, against the President's

Tension mounts as India awaits visit of Pakistan

General leads out Williams recruits

THE NORMAL interest in the BY SUE MONTGOMERY performance of a decent horse having its first run for a new trainer will be redoubled in spades this weekend if the weather allows the hurdler Bellator and the chaser General Wolfe to appear. Both are among the long-term entries for high-profile races, the Champion Hurdle and Grand National respectively. And both are for almost two years. now under the care of Venetia Williams, who is not exactly noted for causing the form of new recruits to deteriorate.

General Wolfe is due to run in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock, which he won last year before bowing out for the piest hunting ground for the rest of the season with an Cleeve Hurdle in 10 days' time. injured tendon. Formerly with now-retired Tim Forster, the 10-year-old is owned by Winning Line Racing, whose colours have been carried so nobly recently by his celebrated stablemate Teeton Mill. Williams said of the chestnut: "He's had a year off to let time do its thing and the leg seems fine. But we'll know more after he runs."

Immediate plans for Bellator, redirected from Toby Balding's yard by his owner, Peter Richardson, last month, are less definite as the six-year-old is in at Kelso on Friday and the Lanzarote Hurdle at Kempton and the Champion Hurdle Trial at Haydock on Saturday. "We really haven't decided yet," "\"lliams said, "we'll see what's tikely to be on and what else is likely to be running where. Perhaps Haydock, it's a £25,000 face and French Holly will probably be in Ireland."

Bellator disappointing when a distant fifth behind Dato Star and French Holly in the Fighting Fitth at Newcastle in

valuable handicap at Aintree after unseating at the last in the Champion Hurdle. This year he is also among the entries for the Stayers' Hurdle, as is another dodgy-legged newcomer to the stable, Putty Road, winner of the 1995 Sun Alliance Hurdle for David Nicholson, but unraced

A third Aramstone inmate, Lady Rebecca, attracted more support at the head of the Stayers' Hurdie market yesterday. The mare, already three times a winner at Cheltenham, is scheduled to return to her hap-

Happy Change, one of Williams's trio of Champion Hurdle entries (the other is the ex-French Flat stayer Stretarez, who won the Group Three Ormonde Stakes at Chester in May shortly after his arrival at his new home) was the subject yesterday of a gamble for the race with William Hill. The firm reported "an avalanche of cash" which swept the ex-German five-year-old's price from 50-1 to 25-1. Ladbrokes cut him to the same price from 40-1.

The possible perspicacity of his supporters may be misplaced, however. Happy Change, who chased Borgia home in the German Derby two years ago and won a 10-furlong Group Three event at Baden-Baden last year, has yet to jump a hurdle in public. "He seems a nice horse and will be running within the next month," his trainer said, "but he'll also be entered in the

Supreme Novices' Hurdle." Williams, 38, is in only her former last season, winning a in any shape or form a self-pub-put it on the canvas.



Nightmare conditions: Another Nightmare (sheepskin noseband, right) wins the opener on Lingfield's rain-lashed track yesterday

plaint, but deemed that racing

FIRST SHOW

Wolverhampton 2.40 🐯

Each wer a reger the odds, places 1, 2, 3

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44 44 203 78 44

81 61 61 51 91

5! 1H 5' 6' 6'

should go ahead.

King Prison

licist – absolutely the reverse – she has not maraged to keep her talent hidden and as a result a steady stream of transfers has arrived at her door.

"I can assure anyone that I have not gone out and touted for these horses," she said, "but if the phone rings I have to pick

Her 60-box yard near Kings Caple, in rural Herefordshire, is stuffed to bursting point, but she has no plans for expansion, presumably on the grounds that larger numbers would compromise her ability to get to know each individual, and its scope and limitations, inside out. Her testament is a strikerate running at over 30 per cent.

Those owners looking for sight of a box of stardust may be disappointed. "When new horses come to us we just feed them and exercise them," November, was a smart per-cence, but although she in not so had paint in his pot and just think there is a chance of lame-

Lingfield too risky for Nicholls' Breeze

THE TRAINER David Nicholls vesterday withdrew Banningham Breeze from his intended engagement at Lingfield, complaining that the all-weather track was "dangerous".

Nicholls, who brought two runners from his North Yorkshire base on a near-500 mile round trip, said: "The ground staff here were working all night through heavy rain to ensure racing went ahead, but in places the sand has washed away and you are down to the base, which is just like concrete.

"In my jockey days I would not have ridden on it. It is dangerous and I would have gone home. As a handler I have got ness out there.

JENNY PITMAN was yester-day no more than "hopeful" that The clerk of the course, Fergus Cameron, inspected the course after Nicholls's com-

> vealed that the gelding fractured when brought down on his first run over fences on Monday. The trainer who initially thought return to racing, while we are

Princeful's career in jeopardy Berkshire track yesterday. A fractured pedal bone is a potentially career-ending in-

Pitman had high hopes that Princeful would win her the Mil-

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Baron De Pichon (Wolverhampton 4.10) NB: River Bay

lennium Gold Cup and had even entered him for this year's Blue Riband before he had

Richard Dunwoody, who aggravated a neck injury in Princeful's fall, plans to return Plans have been made to run a card of five chases, including the rescheduled Victor Chandler Chase, if the rain fails to relent. Following the abandonment

of yesterday's Southwell meeting and today's Newton Abbot card, prospects for the resumption of turf racing rest with Huntingdon, which is subject to a 7.30am inspection. ■ Gatflax, who set a record for

a jumper when purchased for 200,000gns at Doncaster in October, is to revert to hurdling after a disappointing fencing debut at Wetherby last month on his first run for Andy Turnell. It was later reported that the gelding had broken a blood vessel. He has been entered in the Champion Hurdle and the Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham

RESULTS

LINGFIELD Going Standard 12.50: (6) handicap) ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.,T WIE

Also: 5-2 fav Soure Come, 13-2 Dancing Jack (6th), 8-1 Cameo (5th), 12-1 Pearly Quee Sound The Trumpet (4th), 33-1 Halbert. 9 ran, 11/L, 11/L, 1/L, 11/L (winner bay mare by Treasure Kay out of Carange, trained by D Barker at Richmond for GM Engineering). Tota: win £5.30; places £1.20, £3.20, £1.20. DF £38.90. CSF: £66.53, Tricast: £378.28.

Also: 100-30 tav Glastoribury, 7-2 Fiddle, 4-1 Diantond Geezer (5th), 9-1 Idals Cot-tage, 12-1 Nightingale, 14-1 Prime Surprise (4th), 20-1 Lost Spril (6th).

10 ran. /s. 5. 2/s. 1/s. 2 (winner bay cold by Elmaamul out of Ce Ira, trained by F special rate of the Ira framed Special rate of the Ira framed Special rate of the Ira framed Special Research Research Research Research

Also: 7-1 Satin Slipper (6th), 14-1 Marco's Pal. 20-1 Phylozzo (4th), Superbob (5th). rat. 6:1 Fryuczo (wth), supercolu (stor).

7 ran. 6; 1 1/v. 1/v. 6 (winner cheetout lift)
by Petardie out of An Duo, trained by R Hannon at East Everleigh for D Allent. Totar we
E30; places E240; E150 DP: \$210, CSP: £200.
Winner sold to Mrs Blemberg for 8,000gns.

2.20: (Im 4f claiming stakes)T G McLaughlin 7-4 3. mysaggytte Danzig (4th), 12-1 Summerhill Special (5th), 20-1 Dublin River, Ginzbourg (6th), 40-1 Delma.

8 ran. 'r., 4, 6, 9, 17 (wither bay horse by Silver Hawk out of Sugar Hollow, trained by C Dwyer at Newmarket for Gedar Lodge C Owyer at Newmarket for Cedar Lodge Syndicate). Tote: win £490; places £2.70, £110, £110, DF: £660, CSF: £10.25 2.50: (Im 21 handicap)

1. Bank On Head Channe 8-1 2. Rol de Danse — F. Norton 11-1 3. Byzantium — W Ryan 4-1 Also: 9-4 fav Philister (6th), 9-2 Ethabub, 6-1 Bold Oriental, 10-1 Orsay (4th), 33-1 Dentardia (6th). Dentarda (om).

8 ran. 6. 114. 4.314. 14. (winner bay golding by Elmsantal out of Feather Flower, tracked by G. L. Moore at Brighton for Allen House Partnership, Totas vin £710; bacces £150. £270. £10. DF: £38.50. £6F: £82.08. Titcast

C36802, Trifecta: £28060, NR: White Plains. 3.20; (6) handican 2. Half Tone ______ Dane O'Nell 5-1 3. Frederick James _____ W Ryan 9-2 Also: 7-1 Pippes Pride (4th), 8-1 Allsters

Dancer (6th), 15-1 Aragrove (5th), Jockweile 7 ran. 4, 'h, 3'h, 3, 'h. (winner chestrut geld-Ing by Bellad Rock out al Flower From Heaving by Balled Rock out of Hower From Heav-en, trained by A Newcombe at Barnstaple for M Patel). Toker, win £2.30; places £10, £190. UF: £380. CSF: £678. Tricast: £1708. NRs: Hurgil Lady, Tancred Times (7-1) withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 deduction to board prices only, 10p in the pound.

3.50: (2m handicap)

1. ROYAL ROULETTEA Clark 7-2 tayA Cultane 4-1M Wigham 9-1

Also: 9-2 Philosophic (6th), 5-1 Operatic, 6-1 Paradise Navy (5th), 8-1 Nusalse (4th). 16-1 Ne De Librate, Quiet Arch. 9 ran. 5.21s, 5.hd, 2 (winner chestrut mere by Risk Me out of Princess Lify, trained by Miss B Sanders at Epeom for Mrs P J Sheen). Tale: win 1500; places £120 £190, £3.20 DF: £24.20 CSF: £1744.

Jackpot: Not won, Pool of £10,325.76 car-Placepot: £74.10 .Quadpot: £5.10 Place 6; £99.87, Place 5; £44.49.

SOUTHWELL - abandoned

HUNTINGDON

1,30 Sir Lunchalot 2.00 River Dawn 2.30 Castle Owen

3.00 Hawaiian Youth 3.30 Yankie Lord 4.00 Springfield Scally

PRECAUTIONARY IMSPECTION: 7.30mg GOING: Sate

E Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds. E Course is at junction of A1 and A604. Siz ■ Course is at junction of A1 and A604. Station (service from London, King's Cross) m. ADMISSION: Members £13; Paddock £10 (OAP members of Diamond Club, and Students, half-price); Course £5. CAR PARK: Free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FWE-YEAR STATISTICS

III LEADING TRAINERS: K Belley 18 wits from 84 numers (2/4%), G Hubbard 16-74 (2/6%),

Mrs M Reveley 14-37 (375%), J Gifford 14-75 (167%).

III LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durnwoody 21 wins from 81 rides (25.5%), M A Fitzgereld 17-86 (198%), P Hide 16-61 (23.4%), N Williamson 14-73 (192%).

III FAVOURITES: 231 wins from 523 rides (success rate 44.2%).

BLINKERED 1st TRME: None, LONG DISTANCE RUNNER: Night Righter (130) sent 207 miles.

1.30 PUSSY PIE BIRTHDAY NOVICE 110119-12-134 PUSSY PIE BIRTHDAY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

- 17 deciared - BETTING: 13-8 Denowald, 9-2 Sir Lencheldt, 11-2 Radonaldo, 8-1 Bryskit, 12-1 Bow Betts, 14-1 King Cool, 16-1 Rheinhold, Carled Cymn, Kings Assembly, Jean Pierre, 20-1 others 1998: Dawn Leader 7 11 11 C Lievellyn 4-6 for (J Old) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

SSE. Dawn Leader 7 th 11 C Dewellyn 4-6 lay (J Old) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

Brynkit: AW winner over 2m in February, Made headway to have every chance before crashing through the wing of the third last on his hundling bow at Leicester less month Carled Cymrus. No form on the Fest, but better effort on 2nd outing over hundles when 4th at Utbosster (2m, soft) lest time. Breeding suggests he will struggle to stay 2m Germstonet: Medien on the Fest, hundler et alled to firsh in both starts over hundles. Showed promise at Warwick last month even though he was besten when blundering and unseating his rider at the first flight.

Get the Points Madelen on the Fest and started 25-1 on his jumping debut at Catterick (2m, soft), but ran an encouraging race to linigh 6th of 18 to Uniform

Jean Plennet Disspipointing maiden handcapper when trained by Jeff Pearcs. Finished 13th of 16 behind Demolog-Anne on that outing for new year at Southwell (mish) lest month King Cook Promising appearance when 5th of 21 behind Demologar in a Worcester bumper (2m, g/f) in 1986, but not seen since. Related to Ten Plus, so looks more of a chaser Konteste: Won once on the Fest (7f) and soft for not plus to looks more of a chaser Konteste: Won once on the Fest (7f) and soft for only 2000grs at the Newmarket Autumn Sales Tailed off on his hunding debut at Warwick (2m, soft) last month Radomskic One-time useful performer on the Fest in lended from over 1m at the Cunery as a 3yo). Last ran when 7th of 8 (bin 22 lengths) behind Ambessedor at Ned Al Sheba (1m2) his per by 1997.

Rheimbold: Maiden winner at Musselburgh (1m, g/s) in 1997 for Tim Etherington. Placed twice from 9 outings lest season and first run for new year?

Str. Lunchalact Linchlaced in both outings over hundes lest season, but won a bumper at Tewcester (2m, g/f) at Towcester in 1997 and comes from a stable returning to form Take (7f A Noset Lost bouch from the 4th end was tailed of when putled up before 2 out on the debut at Linighted (2m, heavy) 2 weeks ago, inceptience againsts him Va

ability in 2 outings over hardes aturny at a country over rupous. Dimoviskis impressive winner on his debut at Towcester (2m, heavy) by 24 lengths from Bow Bells this month. Won a week race and though he has plently of scope may be one Ny Lost Love: Maden on the Fist and sold out of Merk Johnstons yard for 4,200gns in

My Lost Love: Maden on the Fist and soid out or werk contractus years or excurged at March Public up on his hurding debut at Warwick (2m, soft) this month Night Fighter: Won over 7f in Germany as a 2yo. Promising first not when 7th to Simply Grited at Wetherby (2m, soft) last month, but was outpaced 3 out when 6th to Finewood at Musselburgh (2m, gys) last week. Bow Belts: Maden Flat handleapper and sold for just (200gns at Newmarket Autumn Sales, Beaten 2s langths by Drowskid at Towcaster (2m, heavy) this month.

VERDICT: Omoveski will be a short price after crusing home by 24 lengths on his hurding bow on heavy ground at Towcseter. But his test there was made easier when the facurite unsealed his rider at the second. Easily to start at short odds, there may be better value in SIR LUNICHALOT. Paul Webber's yard has hit form recently and Sir Lunchalot showed a nice turn of foot to war a bumper on his only start in 1997.

2.00 HUNTINGDON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4.000

2.00	added 3m Penalty Value £3,248
32-515	COLLIER BAY (18) (W.E. Sturb. J. Old 9 m to
421H	MY WARPHUK (18) IMPI G Worsley M Campion 11 11 10 B Powell
8117F-	GALLANI LOND (494) (D) (P J Alleni Mrs L Javali 10 tr 4 T Patrolan (7)
21-21	GRAND CANYON (67) (D) (Mrs. H Puth P Eczias A 11 4
F1-#1	#65 PEPINUPP (61) (U) (MFB M Needogo) Lord Turong 8 11 d
2D4P-2	HIVER DAWN (85) (Unlands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 7 11 4
3471-1	ISUNE S NIVER AND (II) (I PANICE) K Palloy 7 H A S SERVICE S SERVICE S
1.	SIR SAMUEL (77) (D) (Ms L Agran) K Belley 6 11 4

\._..... - ·

- 8 declared -BETTING: 6-5 Collier-Bay, 13-8 River Dawn, 7-1 Ser Semuel, 14-1 Rowe's River, 16-1 My Warrior, 20-1 Mr Perlupp, Grand Carryon, 40-1 Gallant Lord 1998 Organ Rectal 9 11 4 M Erennan 16-1 (O Brensan) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

Collier Bay: Never looked like reging in front-running Noper Reed when 2nd at New-bury (2m11, heavy) last time. Jumped well enough and probably needs farther nowsoury (antit reserv) set time. Jumped were enough and probably respondent rows-days, though his never won beyond 2mil over hurdes.

My Warrior: Made all to win over 2mil at Ascot (soft) in October, but pulled up on his next 2 outings, including the race won by Nipper Reed at Newbury this month Grand Carryons Won maiden hish point-to-point at Gowran Park (yielding) in March, and 2md in a novice hurde here (21/m), good) in October, but has since been pulled up in both outlines were forces.

Callent Lord: Lightly raced over hurdles in this country, but won once from 3 outings in hish point-to-points in 1995. Looks out of his depth and has not run for 15 months. Mr Penkupp: Tailed off when refusing at the last on his charing debut at Exeter (2% nr. soft) in November, hish maiden point-to-point winner at Listowel (soft) in April, but tell on

soft) in November, Irish maiden point-to-point winner at Listowell (soft) in April, but fell on his other outling between the flags. River Dawn: Would have won on his hurding debut last season if he had not crashed through the wing of the last flight. First run for Simon Sharwood when 1/4 langth 2nd to through the wing or his chasing bow at Cheltanham (21/4m, good) in October. Good chance despite his 17-week absence. Rower's River: Weak in the market (3-1 to 7-1) when pulled up on his first appearance under Rules at Towester (21/4m, soft) last month. Won once (maiden) from 4 outlings in Irish point-to-points at Nemagh (soft) in May, Looks up against it here.

Sir Samuel: Behind when fell 5 out on his chesing debut at Kempton (5m, soft) in November Backed from 5-1 to 5-2 when woman his only start in high point-to-points of maid-

en) at Ballysteen (good) in May

VERDICT: Collier Bay seems to find two miles inadequate these days and had to be not den along from three out when just snatching second place behind hipper Reed at Newbury last time. This is a big step up in trip and he may not possess the scope over lences that RIVER DAWN appears to have There was a to to Be about his first effort over fences when second to Village King at Cheltenham in October on his first outing for Simon Sherwood.

30	WOODHURST HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 54,00 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £3,248
<u></u>	added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value 23,248
21P-2P	OLD ROUVEL (USA) (90) (CD) (Mrs R D Cowell) D Murray Smith 8 to 11 D Gallage
435-17	CASTLE OWEN (25) (CD) (Lord Vestey) D Nichelson 7 11 2 R Thornt
0P5 P	ALLEZ WILINS (23) (Mrs C Harloury) N Handerson 10 10 10
21-225	MOLSUM (42) (M S Smith) Mrs P Siy 6 to to W Marst
005-60	CLARESWAN (34) (M Berrott) C Dwyer 7 10 2. V Sm
629.32	BESSIE BROWNE (19) (CD) (BF) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7 10 0
P4208-	BELLINO! (463) (465 E.M. Bousquel-Psyne) Mrs M Jones 8 10 0
	DARU (USA) (282) (CD) (Mrs. J. Hughes) R. Hoffestreed 10 10 0
	21P-2P 435-11 0P5-P 21-225 005-60 62P-32 P4208-

SETTING: 11-10 Castle Owen, 9-2 Molecum, 6-1 Bessie Browne, 6-1 Old Rouwel, 12-1 Dans, 14-1 Allez Willins, Chaireswan, 20-1 Belliro 1996: Lucia Forte 7 11 9 Mr A Waldey (3) 4-1 (K Bailey) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Old Rouvel: Won maiden hunde over C&D (good) as season. Ran as if something arress when pulled up before 2 cut at Ascot (3m) in November and looks too high in the weights castile Owen: Won at Luctiow (2m5t (3h) last month and followed up off a 10to higher mark over C&D (soft). Raised another 9tb, but may still be ehead of the handicapper Altex Wijfins: One-time useful French hunder, but destributing and is on a 15b lower mark than when whining at Warwick (21/am, good) in 1996. Lost touch after the 7th when pulled up at Kempton (2m5t, soft) last month. Runs off 5b lower mark than when 2nd to World Express there (2m5t, soft) in November and stable in good form Castreasen: Won at Castreick (3m1t good) last season, but has changed stables twice since then. 19th of 17 behind 18ty on first un for new yard et Castreick (3m1t, good) last month. Beasele Browner, Led until after 3 out when 3rd to Castre Owen on her seasonal debut over C&D (soft) last month, but is only 8to better in for 18 langths. C&D winner (good) last season and scope for improvement.

over C&D (some set morter, but is only sto better in nor its largers. C&D winner (good) last session and scope for improvement.

Belirot: Returns from a 14-month layoff and yet to win on ground worse than good. First run for new yend (previously with Mark Tomplans) and without the visco/binkers he worse in 4 of his 5 outlings last session. Stable have not had a jumping winner for 10 weets. Denti: C&D winner (g/s) last season (now 9tb higher), but has not been out since finishing 3rd of 5 behind Marry Masquerade at Uttaweter (3m, soft) in April

VEFADICT: CASTLE OWEN would not want an overright deluge as heavy ground proved a problem list season. He coped with soft going here on Bowing Day when he led on the bit two out and soon drew clear to win by 18 lengths. Another 98 his in the handcap may not be excessive against some m-and-out performers and several who tack a recent outing.

3.00 GAMLINGAY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,500 added 3rn Penalty Value £4,055 4-4U23 HANNADAN YOUTH (19) (D) (David Czernetzie) G NcCourt 11 11 10 34-EZ MALAWR (21) (D) (W A Behalt) JM Jeftscon 9 ti 9. ______ G Tomary B
2-3248 EARLY DRINKER (21) (S Creaving-Willams) C Sterwood 11 ti 7. _____ JA McCarthy
29333 SELATAN (289) (D) (Steriogh Recing) D Gandotic 7 ti 0. ______ G Bratley
1PSERU LORD KHALICE (14) (D) (G Habbert) G Habbert 8 10 ti 3. _____ R Thomison

5 11-Struct Land America, 199 (a) 15-15 declared --5 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Howesten Youth, 3-1 Malanel, 4-1 Early Drinket, 6-1 Seletan, 8-1 Lord Khalice

FORM GUIDE

Hewalian Youth: Disappointing at Plumpton least (jumped poorly) but big chance on previous 5 lengths 2nd to Zaggy Laire at Unicester (3m hosp, heavy). Malaywi: Plaised 7th for 5-length with over Scoret Bid in weak race at Bangor in October. Struggled off new mark when bin 22 lengths by Better Three Ahead at Carliele rectume Early Drinker: Winner from 7to higher at Haydock leat term but low strike rate recard. pears and will need to improve on two dismall efforts aince encouraging Kempton return. Selectors Several decent efforts over fences less term, including 2nd in this race from 4lb higher, but still a newtex Well weighted, though 4t-week absence to overcome Lond (Challow Some potential over tences and useful 5th to No More Hassie here in Now List down by jumping ance, but not disgraced until failing 3 out in kingdom Cl Shades' race at Lingfield (3m now, heavy) latest and open to improvement on light mark VERDICT: Early Drinler is fully capable of popping up in this sort of company with ground conditions in his favour, but the salest option is probably HAWAITAN YOUTH, who is pretty well in on his Utionater running and should not find his occasionally steps.

jury and caused the retirement Princeful, the top staying hurof the three-times Gold Cup dler and the trainer's great hope for the 2000 Cheltenham winner Arkle in 1968.

Gold Cup, will ever race again. An X-ray examination has re-

the pedal bone in his left hind leg the gelding had only sprained a joint, said: "The prognosis for a hopeful, must be guarded.

"A plaster cast has been placed over the foot in order to stabilise the fracture and reduce movement of the foot and pastern to a minimum. We have taken advice from Dr Redden [a specialist in treating leg injuries in horses) in America and faxed to him."

Hill. 12-1 Careacra Box. Capitals Walter, 16-1 cathers

(Huntingdon 3.30)

jumped a fence in public.

to race-riding at Ascot on Friday. Hopes of staging an eight-Princeful's X-rays have been race card that day faded with Festival but is more likely to each drop of rain falling at the contest the County Hurdle.

3.30 TETWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,000

SERVIL SIMPLE ARTHMETIC (6) Paring CLA KCB K Balley it 2.0 _____ N Williamson B F727 YANGE LORD (55) (3F) (The Boys in Red, 5 Sharwood 7 it 7 _____ G Bradley SF756 CAWARRA BOY (18) July & Karyon Hoten) EL James 11 it 0 ____ JR Karanogh 4576 CAWARRA BOY (18) July & Karyon Hoten) EL James 11 it 0 ____ JR Karanogh 4772 RIVER BAY (20) (D) FRANKOOD RESPONDED TO JULY BAY (20) JULY BA

9 PPSTR: LITTLE HUMBER (2017 (b) (37 colors) Indiana - 9 declared - 8 declared - Manimum weight 10st. Time handles & Creme Hill Manimum weight 10st. Time handles & Creme Hill

Set 105, Little Rowley 9st 25. BETTING: 8-4 River Bay, 4-1 Yankie Lord, 5-1 Another Course, 6-1 Simple Arithmetic, 10-1 Crane

FORM GUIDE

Simple Arthmetic: Potentially useful and farr 11 lengths 3rd to Brother Of Ins over C/O in Nov, but early casualty in 2 outings since (blinkered first time latest) and tacing stiff

In You, our early cashaby in 2 colorings sents (ownered arts only leasing sent tasks at weights for novoce)
Yamide Lond: Neas winner for Arthur Moore in 1996/97. Well-backed favourite at Hereford [2m3] hoap, good to soft on first outing since but tailed off when pulled up 3 out.
Christoph well thought of and may be worth another chance.
Caverant Boy: Formerly small funder but less effective over fences and on side since

Cavarria Boy: Formerly smart hurder but less effective over fences and on side since big Keep Me In Mind at Exeter 15 months ago. Baled off on reappearance fiver Bey: Improved first 1st time birklers when 5 lengths 2nd of 10 to Cardinal Rule at Warwick (2m4f Incap, g/s). Every chance off 2th higher in weaker race Capitals Watter: Unplaced at 7 starts and little improvement when tailed off 4th of 6 to Nordance Prince at Cheltenham (2m nov, good). Another Course: Without a win since 1995 and probably flattered by latest nik 2nd of 5 to John Drumm at Fortiveli (2m5f amat troap, heavy) from out of handicap. Should make the shake-up, but rider's overweight could be a problem. Days Of Thunder: Winner from 11th higher in 1996 but light of the past Crane Hill: 10 placings in 23 starts without with and usually let down by jumping. Pair 2-length 2nd to Beyond Our Placeth at Towcester (2m Incap, g/s) in May but long absence to overcome, although yard had first-time winner at Sandown recently. Little Rowley: Wincariton novice chase winner in May 97. Talked off in Folkestone nov Inde in Nov, only outing since. Market probably the best guide.

VERDICT: The Warwick second of RIVER BAY stands out like a bascon among a me

of disappointing efforts by her rivals. Provided the binkers have the same effect, she should add to her Market Rissen novice win in November. Simple Arithmetic is capable of taking a

hand if his jumping holds up, but a more likely danger is Yankide Lord, whose market sup port last time is unlikely to have been totally without foundation.

4.00 OFFORD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,682

- 13 declare

FORM GUIDE

Springheid Scatty: Looked a useful prospect when completing Market Resen double, bity Sail On Sid 2 lengths (3m nov. heavy). The sort to continue on the upgrade Supreme Troglodyte: Confirmed promise of 2 seasons ago when, led 3 out to last, bith 3½ lengths by Artic Graund at Warwick (2m3f nov hoap, soft). 4b higher now but open

Knockarock hish bumper winner. Yet to confirm intitial hundles promise since moving to present handler (well backed once). Worth a check in the market habulous Mitoto: Some ability over timber in 1996 but confined to Flat since (plating class these days). First outing for new yard following five-month lay-off Ontheboli: Narrowly bin in Nase 2m hosp hole for Frank Berry 17 days ago and looks tracesting contender on first run for Curley yard. One to note in the market Normanby Reads Winner times over hundles in New Zealand but showing little here and 18th of 20 to Windrose at Warwick (2m3) now, soft) tasest. First run in handleap Histohikies: Wetherby 3m11 now hosp winner in Oct from 4to lower. Good chance on Uttaset 10 lengths 4th to Double Strike following month. One to consider Whispering Court: Winner of modest Towesier 2m hosp in New Yest forthis a length set to the state.

tower 10 langurs 4th to bottoe some leavouring mount. One to consider Whilepering Court: Winner of modest Towossier 2th hosp in Nov but fooking plenty high enough in weights both starts since. Bin 23 lengths from 1to higher latest Precious Island: Best efforts for a white last two starts and capable of taking a hand on 17 lengths 3rd to Artic Ground at Warwick (2th3) now hosp, softly lasest start. Sho bet-

to it is required to the termination of the second of the

Lamp wreamy improved entry when the least of a request of concessor (cm now near glimn) last March but pienty to find on first outing since Magic Lamp: Clommel bumper wither in 1895. Pulled up both starts this term. The Ned: First outing for 21 months when 37 lengths 5th of 11 to Springfield Scally a Market Rasen (2m3) midn, soft). Massive improvement needed, but Williamson booking

COURD DE SIGNACIANI. DESI NOTA PRIMARIA, AND PRIMARIALD SCALLY but this jumping improves with each outing and he promises to be a cut above average. Richard Formstell's Sib claim should ensure Supreme Throughodyte plays a leading role and there are possibilities about Hitchhillow. The high form of Ortheboli is difficult to assess, and

Market Raisen (2m3) main, soft). Massive improvement could be significant. Best form previously in blinkers

is market is likely to the best guide to his chance.

ement over longer trip por Irish bumper winner. Yet to confirm intitial hurdles promise since moving to

Admirrum weight: 10st. True trandicap mergins: Libb Ned Bet 11th. BETTING: 2-1 Springfeld Scally, 9-2 Onthebotl, 5-1 Supreme Troglodyte, 6-1 Hit Island, 12-1 Normenby Rood, Whiteportog Court, 14-1 The Ned, 15-1 others 1998: Danu 9 17 9 Gary Lyond 5-1 (R Hollinshed) 19 ran

added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,600

HUNTER CHASE POINTERS

The increasingly competitive pointto-point circuit is having a bigger impact on iumo racing under rules than ever. This new weekly column aims to pinpoint future hunter chase winners and horses who, like Teeton Mill, the Gold Cup favourite, may go on to even better things.

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COTTENHAM (10 Jan) The Auctioneer clocked a smart time when winning the Members Leading at the third fence, he was

left clear when Dream Packet ~ who won at Higham subsequently – fell four out and pulled away to score by 30 lengths from Native Verture. Larry's Lord put in an impressive performance to win the Ladies Open by 15 lengths. Always prominent, he led at the sixth-last tence and forged clear from three out to beat Roberty Lea easily.

LARKHILL (16 Jan) Stag Fight, coming back from a lay-off, trotted up by a distance in the Mens Open. Leading five out, he coasted home from As Du Tre-

Chasing The Bride clocked the lastest time of the day in the Confined. Held up, he stayed on well from five out and duickened to lead at the last and go on to score by four lengths from Mister One.

HIGHAM (16 Jan)

Orchestral Suite jumped really well en route to victory by a distance in the Mens Open. Leading at halfway, he was clear five out and won in a canter from Lucas Court Pharare was also impressive in the Ladies Open. Always disputing the lead, he sprinted clear from the second last for an easy 10-length success over Yellow Spring.

TWESELDOWN (17 Jan) Castle Mane jumped and galloped his rivals into submission in the Mens Open. Making all, he went clear five out and coasted home to win by a distance in easily the tastest time of the day. He looks cartain to pick up a hunter chase.



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HE INDEPENDENT.

leopardy

Bold new Bradford enlivens Elliott

MATTHEW ELLIOTT, the Bradford Bulls coach, believes that his squad for the coming season, spearheaded by the Paul brothers, is stronger than the one that won Super League two years ago. Elliott, who welcomed the former Canberra back row forward David Boyle, as the last element in Bradford's recruitment programme for 1999 yesterday, said: "It's a stronger squad than I've ever had the opportunity to work with and the one I've most enjoyed coaching."

Apart from Henry Paul and Boyle, the Bulls have signed the Australian backs, Nick Zisti and Michael Withers, the Salford centre Scott Naylor, and the young forward, Lee Radford, from Hull to try to reverse last year's relative decline. "Last year we underachieved and we're not going to let that happen again," Elliott said.

'Fifth place isn't good enough." Elliott also insisted that the combination of Robbie and Henry Paul, two players who thrive on an instinctive approach to the game, would not prove too much of a good thing. 'I expect them to bring out the best in each other and I've already seen that on the training pitch," he said.

Henry, signed from Wigan in the winter's most intriguing switch, called Bradford's preparations so far "30 per cent better" than at his old club. "I've worked so hard over the last two weeks that I've been shattered at the end of the day," he

Bradford, who hope to soon their long-delayed plans to lenge Cup-tie at home to Old-

BY DAVE HADFIELD

also clinched a lucrative one year deal with the kit manufacturers. Asics, to be the club's new main sponsor. The Bulls. who sold an astonishing 20,000 replica shirts in 1998, are keeping their sponsorship options open for the millennium year.

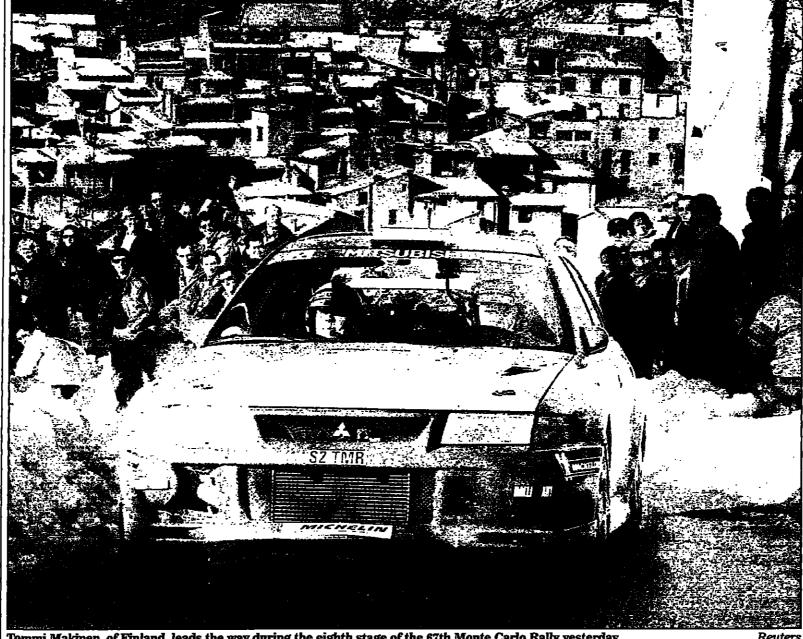
St Helens' biggest new signing, Kevin Iro, will miss Sunday's friendly against Swinton because he has been delayed in New Zealand by an accident to his daughter.

Doncaster, struggling at the foot of the Second Division last season, and almost closed down during the winter, have announced the signing of seven experienced players, headed by the former Great Britain captain, Garry Schofield, as they set out to revitalise the club. The others are headed by the New Zealander Guy Adams, and the French Under-

21 international Sebastien

Bouche. Graham Southernwood, Stuart Flowers, Lee Maher and Darren Summerhill have also joined the club while the Papua New Guinea centre, John Ökul, has resigned, but the capture of Schofield, who has been playing rugby union for Aberavon, is the most promising, "It's a new challenge for me and hopefully I can help to put Doncaster back on the rugby league map," said the 33year-old former Hull and Leeds player, who was sacked as

coach of Huddersfield last July. The new-look side will make its first appearance in the Chalredevelop their ground, have ham St Anne's on 31 January.



Tommi Makinen, of Finland, leads the way during the eighth stage of the 67th Monte Carlo Rally yesterday

McRae nears Monte Carlo podium

COLIN McRAE is within sight of a spectacular podium-winning finale to his Ford debut in the Monte Carlo Rally. The 30-yearold was fourth going into the final day of the opening event of the world championship, which the title holder, Tommi Makinen, leads by a huge margin. But another fastest time on

the final special stage propelled the Scottish flier to within 42 seconds of third place. Fellow Briton Richard Burns is 10th overall for Subaru. McRae, though, is racing

BY IAN GORDON

in Monte Carlo points gained if that appeal

fails when it is heard by FIA, the sport's world governing body, in the next few weeks. The water pump on the Ford Focus was deemed illegal just hours before the rally start last Sunday. McRae said before the rally

he hoped for a podium finish, but even he could not have expected doing so on his first rally under appeal and could lose any for the team. But McRae, who

set his first fastest times in the final two stages, raised that possibility as he closed in on the Subaru of the four-times world champion, Juha Kankkunen.

He saved his best until last as he went through the 12-mile section as the drivers headed back to Monte Carlo in 15.22 seconds, though it was close with Frenchman Didier Auriol little two seconds slower.

With over a minute in hand on his closest challenger McRae, barring an accident in today's final four special stages, should claim at least three points - although he could lose them at the appeal. The 1995 world champion had moved up to fourth place after the first timed section. At the same stage on Monday he was 14th.

McRae dropped back one place on the next stage, the longest of the day at 22 miles, after gambling on slick tyres over the French Alps to carry out testing on the car.

But, despite complaining of snow patches deliberately put on the road by spectators, he kept his cool after around 12 hours behind the wheel to re-

though, looks set to launch his campaign for a fourth successive title by becoming the first Finnish winner in Monte Carlo since 1986 after establishing a comfortable cushion of 1min

The Mitsubishi driver regained the lead on the third of the five special stages and pressed home the advantage as overnight pacesetter Gilles Panizzi spun his Subaru a couple of times. Burns started and

Aura at Open is greatest reward

By ANDY FARRELL

STILL THE most prized title in the game, the Open Championship has been pushed down the league table of the world's richest tournaments despite announcing an increase in

prize-money yesterday. As well as the gold medal and the silver claret jug, this year's winner of the 128th Championship at Carnoustie in July will receive £320,000, out of a total fund of £1.85m.

Mark O'Meara, last year's winner at Royal Birkdale, took home £300,000 and over the last four years, the first prize has risen by over 150 per cent. Indeed, when the Open was last played at Carnoustie in 1975. Tom Watson won £7,500 out of a total ourse of £75,000.

The substantial increases in recent years have helped the Open keep pace with its fellow American majors but the Royal and Ancient have decided not to overreact to the huge prize hikes on the US Tour. Thanks to a new television contract, which fortuitously came up for renewal within weeks of Tiger Woods' 12-stroke victory in the 1997 US Masters, purses on the American circuit are expected to double within three years.

This season at least four tour events will have equivalent prize funds to the Open. The three American majors, which have yet to set their 1999 values. will be greater still, and then come the US Players Championship and the US Tour Championship. At the top of the tree are the three new World Championship events, each offering

a first prize of \$1m (£630,000). But the R&A are banking on the aura of the Open outweighing monetary allure and in the current holder, O'Meara, they have a champion of the game's most revered title.

"There are so many international players throughout the world," O'Meara said at Birkdale after his victory, "who have risen their game to an incredible level to make it a worldwide game. That's why this championship is recognised throughout the world as a great, great championship. It is incredibly gratifying to know my name is on the trophy. If you look at the names that have won the Open Championship it is a tremendous honour'

But the R&A know that to attract the best players and provide the appropriate reward for what is said to be the most hard-earned victory of all, the prize fund cannot fall far behind the game's other big pay-days.

However, the European Tour will use the prize fund for the Open as a ceiling when calculating Ryder Cup points. The points system, which is now based on the Euro equivalent of sterling prize funds, will have a maximum first place value linked to the Open which will come into effect for the three American majors and next month's Andersen Consulting World Matchplay Championship. The move follows representations from players, including Seve Ballesteros, to tour officials last year seeking to limit the advantage of the elite few getting into the big money events where the top pay-out could be as much as 12 times that of a win on the regular European Tour.

Ivan Francescato | Hamed and Warren split | Adelaide refused dies at age of 31

THE ITALIAN centre Ivan RUGBY UNION Francescato, the youngest son of the country's greatest rugby Ennily died on Tuesday of a sud-

The 31-year-old Benetton Treviso player felt strong pains in his head and chest shortly night out with friends on Monday. He started vomiting vio- ber. lently and died in the early hours of yesterday morning. He tears," said Italy's French had attended a Treviso training session earlier but had not taken part because of a minor knee injury. A spokeswoman for a nightmare for his opponents. the Italian Rugby Union Fed- It was his way of doing it and eration (FIR) said the cause of remains his. Unfortunately the death was not known. A post unpredictability which characmortem is due to be held today.

Francescato, the youngest of him to his death." six brothers, played 38 times for Italy at centre and scrum-half. the most talented of an extra-He made his debut in a World Cup qualifying match against ers. Three of his brothers -Romania in October 1990 and Luigi, Rino and Bruno - also was voted one of Italy's best players at the World Cup in in ingland the following year.

full cap in a Test match against an injury and dropped out of inagainst Argentina last Novem-

coach Georges Coste. "He was pure talent - unpredictable. His way of selling dummies was terised his life has followed

ordinary family of rugby playtries for his country, including one on his debut against Ro-Francescato won his last mania in October 1990.

South Africa in Bologna in 1997. Shortly afterwards he suffered ternational contention. But he was returning to the fold and after returning home after a played for the Italy A side

"I have no words to say only

Francescato was perhaps played for Italy. Ivan scored 16

NASEEM HAMED has split with

the promoter Frank Warren following the completion of their contract. Hamed had been expected to go his own way since their deal expired following his win over Wayne McCullough in November.

Hamed split with his longtime mentor Brendan Ingle following the McCullough bout and is training in a rival Sheffield gym. He is now expected to nea one-off basis.

instead. The fighter's promoter, Frank Maloney, and trainer, Steve Pollard, both expressed their surprise at his decision.

gotiate his own individual fight deals, paying top promoters to deliver venues and opponents on Paul Ingle has turned down two world title fights and opted to defend his European featherweight title in Scarborough

Ingle was offered both world title shots last week - one by World Boxing Organisation champion Hamed – but he is

not prepared to give up his European belt. Pollard said: "He's got the talent to win a world title but he hasn't got the mind for

BY MARK STANIFORTH

After staying up until 4am to consider his options. Ingle decided to fight the former WBO champion Steve Robinson in front of his home-town fans. Ingle said: "I want to go into my next fight without the slightest doubt in my mind I am doing

the right thing. I'm 110 per cent sure I can beat Robinson." The Hamed option had been favoured by Maloney, who called the purse offer "exceptional" and added: "He would have had everything to gain and nothing to lose."

One alternative, a bout with World Boxing Association champion, Antonio Cermeno, offered by Don King, would have been chief support to Evander Holyfield v Lennox Lewis in New York. Maloney said: "It is Paul's decision and I respect it. But he has put all his eggs in one basket."

Pollard, too, believes Ingle has chosen the wrong route but insisted he would stand by his man and prepare him for the

fight, which will take place at Scarborough's Spa on 6 March. Pele Reid will challenge Julius Francis for the British

and Commonwealth heavyweight titles this month after Danny Williams pulled out through injury. Reid, the former kick-boxer trained by Brendan Ingle in Sheffield, has relinquished a European title shot to meet Francis. The fight takes place in

Bethnal Green on 30 January, on the same bill as Scott Welch's return against Michael Murray. The former WBO heavyweight title challenger Welch is chasing a fight with Herbie Hide. He said: "Having trained and sparred over 100 rounds with Herbie I know his weaknesses. We've had a few set-tos in the past, he is very mouthy and basically I would love a showdown with him." ■ William Joppy, 28, the WBA world middleweight champion. is in a critical condition in hospital in Maryland after a car crash. Joppy's van was struck by a car as he left a gymnasium and he suffered a fractured back

vertebrae and cuts to his head.

'bribery demands'

THE COMMONWEALTH Games was drawn into the Olympic bribery controversy vesterday when it was reported in Australia that officials sought scholarships for their children in return for their support for Adelaide's 1998 bid.

Nearly seven years after the Australian city was beaten by Kuala Lumpur for the right to stage the Games, the former Adelaide mayor. Steve Condous. said that officials from three countries asked for incentives.

Condous, who was the president of the Adelaide bid, said the requests were made by officials from Pakistan, Sri Lanka and an African country which he could no longer recall.

"We were asked by certain countries to give incentives to gain their votes." Condous said. They all wanted us to set up one of their children at Adelaide University and pay for their tuition there. I said Tm sorry, we don't do business like that.' "They [the Commonwealth

Games) are no different to terday.

SPORTS POLITICS

what's been going on in the Olympic Games. What is happening, even what happened during our bid, made me sick." The allegations follow claims that organisers of the Salt Lake

City bid for the 2002 Winter Games bribed IOC members. The International Olympic Committee said yesterday that it had "absolutely no record or recollection" of a Japanese samurai sword having been presented by the governor of Nagano to the IOC president.

Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The statement was in reaction to a Japanese newspaperreport, which said that Samaranch had been given the sword, at the time worth more than Y1m (£5,400), during a visit to Nagano in May 1991, during the bidding process for last year's Winter Olympics.

Pirjo Haggman, a Finnish IOC member implicated in the bribery scandal, resigned yes-

Carter hits out at

RAY CARTER has been fired by his Austrian club Oberwart following a dispute which arose when they deducted his wages for the 10 days he spent with the England team for their European Championship games in

November and December. The 26-year-old Carter, who starred on his debut in the win over Denmark in Birmingham, was left out of Oberwart's Saporta Cup quarter final in Spain last night against Badalona.

"They fired me," said Carter from Austria yesterday. "Other things have been going on at the club, but the situation with England was the biggest part of the problem. They just didn't accept that I was a national team player and they more-or-

less gave me an ultimatum. Play for us or play for England. They wanted me to fly back between the games (at home to Denmark, then away to Spain and the Ukraine) before we played our final match in Kiev."

the club began on his return from the England programme in December: Oberwart have been in dispute with most of their squad since the first-leg game against Badalona two weeks ago. "They were threatening to fine us because we hadn't played the way they wanted. It's ridicu-

Carter is one of nine members of the current England team playing with Continental clubs and illustrates the marketability of English players post-Bosman. He is represented by an agent in every basketball-playing European country and they were already

Pippen is set to follow Michael Jordan and quit the NBA champions, Chicago Bulls. The sixtimes title winner is likely to be Although Carter's row with traded to the Houston Rockets.

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.40 Arc 2.10 Abulijood 2.40 Punishment 3.10 Flying Officer 3.40 Socializer (nb) 4.10 BARON DE PICHON (nap) GOING: Standard STALLS: 7f outside, remainder Inside.

GOING: Statused S. Middle to high usually best.

Firesand, leit-hand, ovel course.

Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station im.

ADMISSION: Club P15; Tattersalis £8 (£2 off for OAP members. ALDMISSHUN: Guo t. c; learness 12 (2 on for OAP members of Damond Cab); Restaurant package prices \$1750 to £3595 including course entrance and meal CAR PARK; Free. BLEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead 65-554 (1176), M Johnston 44-235 (186%), N Littmoden 41-332 (12.3%), P Evens 12 (19.6%).

105%). NG JOCKEYS: \$ Sanders 43-311 (13.8%), Dean McKeown 2.6%), J Weaver 34-200 (17%), D Holland 31-133 (23.9%). BLEADING JULIAETS: 3 DIMINORS SCATT (1927), DOBER MICKBOWN 37-293 (125%), J Wesver 34-200 (17%), D Holland 31-133 (233%). FAVOURITES: 231-523 (442%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Papua (240), Weetheby (visored, 230); Sharp Edge Boy & Sounds Lucky (visored, 340).

1.40 NETHERTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds

9 declared 9 declared 9 declared 9 BETTINO: 2-1 Arc., 5-2 Bruff Streem, 3-1 Seven O Seven, 8-1 Magical Shot,
9-1 Sameta One, 16-1 Sciratisting Sound, 25-1 Ben Cardel, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

A good opportunity for ARC to open his account. He finished well clear of remainder when twice runner-up to Tropical Beach in handicars here last year and his latest Southwell third is also solid form. Bruff Stream shaped with promise when third here a fortright ago and could be the main danger.

2.10 TIPTON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 1m 4f (14-24 ALSAHIS (USA) (14) (CD) W Mar 69 10 Martin Deyer 7

FORM VERDICT

Most of these are not known for their reliability, so hardly a great betting race. ALSAHIB threshed feir opposition on his last appearance at this level here and that entitles him to the vote over Abultiood and Portite Sophie. 2.40 TOTE STAKES (CLASS C) 2.40 £10,000 added 1m 4f

0054 PUNISHMENT (25) (D) K Curringham-Brown 8 TJ O. T Speaks 4 0054 RANDOM KINDNESS (22) (CD) R Ingram 69 2

4002-2 SWAM HUNTER (18) (20) D Cosgrove 6 9 11 ... W Ryan 9 620-4 PAPUA (18) I Babing 5 9 9 ... Whiterorth 1 B 05300- DIAMACHO FLAME (60) (C) P Harra 5 97 P Roberts (3) 6 422-33 BE WARNED (7) (C) (SF) J Pearce 6 9 5 A Poli (3) 12 Y 31000- JAMACAN FLIGHT (25) (CD) Mrs S Laroymer 6 9 3 C Teasure (3) 5

C Regue (3) 5

O-mi CHRIA CASTLE (2) (CD) P Hustern 6 9 0 (Sec) ... C Lowther 2

9 543-1 FALED TO HIT (14) (CD) N Litmoder 6 8 9 ... I Tan 8 V

10 45381- RAVIK (22) N Berry 4 8 8 ... N Cartists 11

11 5-122 NOUKARI (1) (D) (SP) P Evers 6 8 5 ... T G liter laughlin 3

12 2650-2 KING PRIAMI (8) (D) M Polytese 4 7 10 ... J Quiem 10 8

- 12 declared
Minimum weight: 7st 10th. Thu hamilean weights: King Priam 7st 6th.

SETTING: 9-4 Chine Castle, 4-1 King Priam, 7-1 Swen Humber, 9-1 Falled To Hit. 10-1 Be Warmed, Nookari, 11-7 Propers, 12-1 Punishment, 14-1 Randoms Kindness, Rayik, 20-1 Dismond Planne, 25-1 Jameicam Flight FORM GUIDE

PUNIM GUIDE

Punishment: Winner from 1b higher on surf at Laicester in Oct and gradually finding form on AW with 5-length 4th of 8 to Wiese-A-Minute over 1m1f here test month. Extra 3f should suft and looks teniently treated on best surf form Random Kindnesse. High in the weights since Lingfield 1m4f conditions win over First Master in Nov. Held by Swan Hunter in C&D running behind Pranary Colours same month and struggled off this mark at Lingfield (1m4f hosp) latest Swan Hunter: Finds trip on sharp side. Running on when bits 5 lengths by Primary Colours over C&D and when 3 lengths 3rd to Dencing Rio at Lingfield (1m4f hosp)

Papua: Urvellable on turt, though good 2nd to Al's Allol at New-bury in May from 11b Jower. Promising AW debut when stay-ing-on 5 lengths 4th of 12 to Danong Rio at Lingfield (Im# hcap). but shapes as though longer hip might suit

Diamond Flame: Lingfield tim2! maiden winner in Feb and successful over that here in Nach. Below form following lines troube since and tasked off on AW return in Nov

Be Wanned: Benefited from step up in trip when bit in 1// langths.

Each of the comment of the

by Falled To Hit over C/D last month. Weighted to reverse plac by respect to invest can be an incute, we give a break paper ings with winner and should be thereabouts

Jermaican Flight: 16b lower when scoring over C&D in Feb.

Ninth in Cesarewitch latest Fled start and hundles winner since,
but high in weights on belance of AW form

China Castle: 9 lengths winner off this mark at Southwet on

Her here lest January and the one to best when besting Be Red To Hit: Improved for step up in trip when besting Be arred 11/h lengths over C/O test month and progressed again to 8-length win from 4th higher latest. Raised 8th since but with 6-length win from 4b higher latest. Raised 8b since but still flexly to be a major factor in his present form Raytic Broke his duck when big Royal German 31/s lengths in Lingfield malden last month. Facing a tough task on fibresend

Noutest: Running consistently well but rocketing up weights (17th higher than Southwell win in Nov) and bin off this mark at Lingfield on Seturday, Making quick return after 2nd in claims on same course yesterday
King Priter: Improving with experience on AW and meets Chine
Castle 6to better for nack on Southwell Institutining last week
(winner hampered), Extra 1f here should suit and sure to be a

er with his yard in greet form. VERDICT: China Castle is likely to be all the rage from an VERLUIL I: Chana Castle is Rely to be at the rige from an appearently texourable handcap mark following interferences Southwell win on Monday. But it may be worth taking a chance with KING PRIAM, who has prograssed with every race on fibresand and has a 6th pull for a neck with Pat Hastlants earlyterresand and has a 6th pull for a neck with Pat Heslant's early-season specialist on their form in a tast-run race at Southwell

3.10 DUDLEY STAKES (CLASS C) £9,000 added 6f

- 7 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Flying Offices, 11-4 Primo Lara, 4-1 Cheasy Cleo, 9-2 Nomore Mr Niceguy, 12-1 Adelphi Boy, Palacegaté Touch, 25-1 State Of Cardion

FORM VERDICT

A strongly-contested event, featuring several of the leading performers on sand. Classy Cleo has a big pull with Nomore Mr Niceguy and PRIMO LARA on their form here in November, but the last-named is less exposed on the AW and 61 around here may suit him the best. This event want to a 3yo last year and it will be fascinating to see how Flying Officer copes against the older opposition.

3.40 BILSTON SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 22,500 added 3YO 5f 24033 - LADY CARBRON (67) (CD) J Berry 9 0 ____ P Brediey (7) 7
3800-0 GOCHBNOS (8) S C Wilkins 8 12 _____ C Lowther 8
0602-2 KEEN HANDS (5) Mrs N Macadey 8 12 _____ R Price 1 V
0630 - SHARP EDGE BOY (111) E Alston 8 12 _____ T Sprake 3 V
5564 - SOCIALIZER (29) (8F) W Juvis 8 12 ____ D McGaffin (7)
5604 - SOCIALIZER (29) (8F) W Juvis 8 12 ____ C Teegue (3) 2 V
000-00 TAZ MANBA (5) S Bowrng 8 12 ____ C Teegue (3) 2 V
000-00 TAZ MANBA (5) S Bowrng 8 12 ____ C Teegue (3) 2 V
000-00 TAZ SANSHA (7) C SS M Cours 8 7 ____ Remining 5

00080- RUSSIAN VELVET (35) M Curin 87 Martin Dwyer BETTING: 5-2 Shurp Edge Boy, 7-2 Keen Hende, 4-1 Socializer, 5-1 Lasty Carbron, 8-1 Light Breaza, 10-1 Sounds Lucky, 14-1 Taz Manie, 20-1 others FORM VERDICT

Money for Light Breeze, who did not shape too badly in bet-ter company at Lingfield on her first start for Gary Moore, would be interesting, but the runner with the best recent form is KEEN HANDS, who has been transformed recently by the apps-

4,10 BIRMINGHAM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3YO 7f

Minimum weight 7st 16th. Twe -- 7 declared -- 16th Minimum weight 7st 16th. Twe -- 7 declared -- 16th Minimum weight 7st 16th Twentaffap weight Miss Doodybusiness 7st 16th Minimum -- 7st

FORM VERDICT SARON DE PICHON ran well enough over this trip at South-well to suggest he will cope with a drop back in distance after winning over an extended fire here a fortingfit ago off a mark shi lower trian today's. The biggest threat may be Erimvale if he stays this trip.

Austrian sacking

BASKETBALL BY RICHARD TAYLOR

lous." Carter said.

making calls for him yesterday. In the United States, Scottie Australian Open: Former world No 1 joins Britain's No 2 in call for greater vigilance in the fight against drugs

Courier reveals blood-doping fears

THE AMERICAN Jim Courier By SONALI PAUL prompted a new doping row in men's tennis yesterday by claiming that only drug cheats could survive the gruelling

As the Australian Open champion, Petr Korda, began his title defence after escaping a one-year ban for steroid use. the former world No 1 said he was more concerned about blood doping in the sport than steroids, "I'm much more in-

in Melbourne

for under the current system of testing, which is blood doping," Courier told a news con-

Blood doping, involving blood transfusions to boost an athlete's crucial red cell count, is usually linked to endurance sports such as cycling and cross-country skiing.

Britain's Greg Rusedski clined to have a concern for joined in the debate by saying

world can crack down on drug abusers. Rusedski said: "I think tennis should take a stance and make all the players take a blood test three or four times a year. That's the only way you can trace it, and I'd be happy to have the money to fund it taken out of our prize-money."

Courier, 28 and winner of four Grand Slam titles, said he was unable to perform at his peak throughout the year and doubted other players could. "I can't play 35 weeks a year, God

keep going," he said. "I just can't do it, and I don't think anybody else can either. But they

From what I've deduced there may be some suspicious things going on that I'm unaware of and that are not being properly sourced out through our testing," he said.

The allegation met with a mixed response among his fellow players. The Austrian baseliner Thomas Muster retorted: "I am 32 years old. I am still

drugs, and I am still playing maybe 30 weeks a year, as much as I like. I think we are pretty much on the edge of destroying the sport by making comments like that. If you don't have proof you shouldn't say

things like this." By increasing their haemoglobin levels, blood dopers are able to process more oxygen during their exertions. There are currently no blood tests used to prevent it, although the International Olympic Commit-

"It's clearly prevalent in European sports and most of our tour is in Europe," Courier said. "By deduction - and I'm throwing darts, I have no proof. I can't name names, I wouldn't bother naming names - it just seems a logical way for a player to improve," he said.

Rusedski, meanwhile. is more concerned about hightech drugs. "I think it would be great if we had blood tests every year, three, four times a against the lenient treatment he

playing, and I am not taking tee is hoping to introduce one year, because the problems are before the Sydney 2000 Games. EPO and growth hormone and stuff like that," he said.

Andre Agassi was quick to play down the blood doping debate. "I have absolutely no knowledge of anyone blooddoping whatsoever," said Agassi, who is back in the top 10 after crashing to 122 two

Courier and Rusedski are the latest players in a long line who have reacted to the Korda case. A number of them are

the steroid nandrolone at Wimbledon last year. The 30-year-old Czech faced a minimum ens year ban for steroid use, but es caped with a fine and loss of points after telling an International Tennis Federation passel that he had not knowingly taken the drug. The ITF is appealing

against the panel's decision. I don't think anyone here or in the locker-room... will disagree when I say that if you test positive for steroids, you should

Rusedski's back injury clouds win

GREG RUSEDSFI is keeping BY DERRICK WHYTE his fingers crossed that a back in Melbourne problem does not flare up again at the Australian Open. Rusedski, the No 8 seed, was to be found flat out on the court receiving treatment during the second set of his first-round match with the Australian Scott

Draper yesterday. However, he climbed off the rubber to win 7-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 he said. As for the postman, and, having seen off the world No 46, next plays the 187thranked Paul Goldstein, an American qualifier.

Petr Korda, whose participation here was in doubt following the furore over his positive Wimbledon drugs test, prevailed vesterday - although his opponent refused to shake hands. Korda declined to comment after his five-set win over Galo Blanco, which included a third set injury time-out to treat a twisted left ankle. The Spaniard refused to shake earning a meeting with Korda Korda's hand at the end, saying he suspected the reigning champion of feigning injury.

Although Rusedski's way forward has been made easier by the absence of Pete Sampras, Marcelo Rios and Goran Ivanisevic, and the early exits of Carlos Moya (seeded four), Albert Costa (12), Cedric Pioline (13) and Thomas Johansson (16), there are other hurdles still to cross. The resurgent Andre Agassi is in Rusedski's half of the draw and the Las Vegan looked in ominously good form vesterday in beating the Argentinian Hernan Gumy for the loss of only three games.

Rusedski's immediate concern, though, is that his back injury does not worsen. "I did it about four days ago practising," he said. "But I am sure it will be fine for the rest of the tournament. It's just muscle tension nothing serious."

The 25-year-old took the first set tie-break, but after stretching for the smash which won him the set, his back began to restrict him seriously, and he called for the trainer after losing his opening service game to love in the second set.

There were other slight 90 minutes.

problems for the British No 2 during the match - an overexcited ball-boy and a noisy

"The boy nearly hit me in the head tossing a ball to me and I asked him if he could take it easy a little bit - it was not a big deal," Rusedski added" "Some absolutely crazy guy screamed out during the match. I know him pretty well. He's a postman by professional - a very vocal one."

On a disastrous day for Spain, only two of 14 the nation's players remain, including the second seed Alex Corretja, who survived against the Japanese wildcard Takao Suzuki in five sets on Monday. The other Spanish survivor is Julian Alonso, who beat Canada's Sebastien Lareau 6-3, 6-4, 6-2,

Carlos Moya, the French Open champion and 1997 runner-up to Sampras in Melbourne, fell 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3 to the German Nicolas Kiefer, saying that he was suffering from the effects of a virus picked up at the Hopman Cup in Perth two

In the women's draw, the former world No 1 Monica Seles kept up her remarkable unbeaten run when she coasted past Tina Krizan 6-1, 6-0 in the first round. Seles, seeded sixth, overcame the Slovakian qualifier in only 40 minutes.

Martina Hingis opened her title defence with the minimum of fuss, scuttling the American Lilia Osterloh 6-1, 6-2.

However, a double-faulting Anna Kournikova just managed to stave off a total collapse. The 17-year-old has seen her service game falter recently and she served 23 double-faults against the American qualifier Jill Craybas. Fortunately for the No 12 seed, her opponent could not capitalise on Kournikova's problems. The Russian held her nerve on the pressure points to scrape into the second round with a 7-6, 7-5 win in a nervous



Adelaide schoolboy Lleyton Hewitt storms past the Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the first round of the Australian Open yesterday

Teenager Hewitt knocks out Pioline

THE ADELAIDE schoolboy Lleyton Hewitt beat the Frenchman Cedric Pioline 6-3. 6-1, 6-1 in the first round of the Australian Open on Tuesday,

writes Philippe Naughton. The 17-year-old Australian, ranked 101 in the world, had his work cut out after giving Pioline, the world No 15, two break points at 2-3 in the opening set. But he produced two incredible retrieving shots to save the game and went for every ball

from then on. Pioline won only men's game since Michael two more games in the match. Hewett, a wild card entry, said: "I'm playing like I've got

nothing to lose." His skateboarder shorts and reversed cap showed a typically modern approach to the dress rules of tennis, but Hewitt is already building a useful collection of scalps, including Pat Rafter and Andre Agassi.

Last January, Hewitt became the youngest player in the

Chang to win a professional tournament when he took the hardcourt title in his home town. The victory started Hewitt on an unprecedented climb up the rankings - 609 positions to a year-end 113. In Adelaide two weeks ago, he reached the final and then earned more ranking points when he beat Rafter, the world No 3, in an Australian Open warm-up

tory was by far the most important, and the sweetest, of his short career. He said: "To beat Cedric three, one and one on Centre Court at night is something special. I think it's the best

match I've ever played." Pioline, the former Wimbledon and US Open runner-up, was clearly upset by his defeat and not in the mood to pay compliments. He said: "He played a good match. But I'm not dis-

Hewitt said yesterday's vic- appointed because he's 17 or 16 or 8, or 42. I just play tennis."

With Spain's Carlos Moya already out, Hewitt has a seedfree path through to the quarter-finals. His second round opponent tomorrow will be the German Tommy Haas, ranked 33. Hewitt added: "I don't think anyone wants to be beaten by a 17-year-old wild card in a Grand Slam so maybe there's a little bit more pressure

on them."

be out of the game," Courier said **Davis Cup** snubbed as Agassi

pulls out

By MARK GARROD

ANDRE AGASSI has ruled himself out of the Davis Com against Britain in Birminghim in April. "At this stage of myesreer with all that I've given to Davis Cup and all that I've received from it, it doesn't really fit into my plans," said the former world No 1 at the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Pete Sampras is also likely to be missing and, while the pair's absence may be good for British hopes, it is a big disappointment for the fans.

"It takes a lot out of you and I just don't believe I have that to give right now," added Agassi, who in the past 14 months has climbed right back from 141st in the rankings to his current sixth.

The match comes on the 100th anniversary of the Davis Cup, but when asked if that was tempting Agassi replied: "Every tie in Davis Cup is tempting. When you say 'Yes' 30 times you've got to start really assessing what you need and sometimes, even though it's a difficult decision, it's a clear one.

"The players need to be much more in the position of making decisions because we are the ones out there and until that element gets respected it certainly makes it more difficult to find it inside

yourself to go. Tve found myself very frustrated and very drained emotionally through it all and that. I'm sure, all plays a part some-

where." Greg Rusedski responded by commenting: "In America unfortunately it's not viewed the same as it is in Britain, so that's a little disappointing. They should make more time in their schedules maybe and try to play."

Rusedski does not believe it makes his and Tim Henman's task easy, however.

"Todd [Martin] is up to 13 in the world and I think Jan Michael Gambill [38th] has beaten Tim every single time they've played.

"Obviously it's going to be a little better than seeing Agassi and Sampras across the net. but it's still going to be a very difficult tie.'

Rosy future for Bennett as early promise finally blooms

SINCE THE real world takes time to catch up with the frenzy of media speculation, anyone seeking out the "next Justin Rose" would be better advised to follow the fortunes of one of Rose's past incarnations. Warren Bennett has been there, done that and, unlike the Boy Wonder of Birkdale, has got his

tour card for the coming season. Bennett won the silver medal as low amateur at the Open in 1994. The impact may not have been widespread but the talent had been noted in golfing circles. Sir Michael Bonallack, secretary of the to happen. You need to contend Royal & Ancient, stated Bennett and to win. would "win the Open within the next 10 years".

If Bennett disappeared for a few years he was not buried under the magnitude of those words but was cursed by a persistent neck injury. Finally free dominated the Challenge Tour to stunning effect. Bennett reversed the theory that the European tour's junior circuit was not a place to make a profit by

New faces for 1999: A young British golfer is about to justify the hype after a fruitful year. By Andy Farrell winning five times and earning

£81,052, more than double the tally of the runner-up Per The leading 15 players

earned their tour cards but it was Bennett who came away with all the tricks. "It's a great apprenticeship," he said of his experience on the Challenge Tour. "You have to learn how to do it. If you under-perform or just play average, it is not going

"A few friends came over to watch at East Sussex and couldn't believe the standard. They thought the top-25 players would be good but it is not like that any more, it's all the way down the field. When the prize to perform regularly last year, at the end of the year is so good, the 27-year-old from Watford you are going to get good

The prize of a full tour card is one that eluded Rose at the Qualifying School. But the 18-

guarantee his place on the Challenge Tour or pick and choose his invitations for the main circuit. Bennett might be an example of how beneficial the first choice can be but he understands if Rose goes for the latter option.

"If he is in the position to gain the invitations, then you have to a bit of time, he's good enough." play on the highest stage you can. He should benefit from



year-old did well enough to Bennett: Injury setback

sponsor I'd want him there. What Justin did at the Open was unbelievable. He was a good player before that and that made him a household name. Sure, he's good enough to do it. Everyone is waiting for him to do something but just give him

Bennett's father, Peter, a former West Ham player, said something similar four years ago and was still backing up his words at the start of last season when he gave his son a loan measure. Rather than seek to carry on playing. "When I sunnier climes, he has enjoyed turned pro, my dad said: You a few weeks at home but canare probably good enough to do not wait for the year-long it, but give it some time. It may odyssey that is the European not happen straight away. It tour to begin.

could do, you've got the talent,

but it may not.' He was right." But never did Bennett feel he injury I feel I haven't played that was failing to live up to anyone's expectations but his own "Honestly, I've been asked that question a lot and I didn't feel it. I still don't. There were a few articles

that in the expectation category. What Bonallack said was a nice compliment. I only ever looked on it as a positive.'

The neck injury, caused by a twisted vertebrae, first struck at the end of 1995. One day the following summer Bennett woke up and could not move. The problems continued through 1997 but have cleared up now he has put some weight on a lean 6ft 4in frame.

More fitness work over the winter, interspersed with a few trips to see Leyton Orient play their own brand of football should act as a preventative

"I want to play as much as I can," he said. "Because of my much over the last four years. I haven't played a full season yet. I'm looking forward to feeling exhausted at the end of the year."



added to the schedule, and in particular a British one. "Seeing people like Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke winning

golfer with big money world "They are at a different level to championship events being me but hopefully I can work my way up the ladder"

Taking the view that dealing with the feelings of being in contention over the last few holes around the world can only is the same whatever level you This is a good time to be a inspire you," Bennett said. are at, Bennett is not scared of

aiming for the top of the leaderboard this season. But there are two main priorities. "First, as always, is my health because without that you can't do anything. Then if I can retain my card early on, that security will

age frame) and

ears Villa ordered to pay Barry's second and the first of the f

THE PREMIER LEAGUE has a suspended fine on THE PREMIER LEAGUE THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND Imposed a suspended fine on Asian Villa over their refusal to imposed a suspended in imposed in imposed a suspended in imposed in Aston Villa over mean and for pay Brighton £200,000 for Careth Barry, and diverted the Davis Chird Division club. money from the Premiership club's television revenue to the

snubbed initial £150,000, as ordered by a transfer tribunal, but declined the same over the £200,000 they Villa had paid Brighton an as Agassi were told to pay when the 17year-old defender made 20 appearances for the club, claiming he was over-priced.

pulls out Now the Premier League Board has stepped in, given the £200,000 to Brighton and im-BY MUIK GARROD posed a £16,000 suspended fine on Villa, with the threat of calling in the sum if the Premier-- or the Deta ship club does not pay up when Barry reaches other land-marks. If Villa refuse to pay any further instalments, as well as - F and 레ાఠ() imposing the fine the Premier The House League can ensure the Pre-T. 2256. 1015 miership club will have to pay further penalties.

The Crystal Palace chairman, Mark Goldberg, has 100 End ag strongly denied suggestions that the club's chief executive, Jim McAvoy, is poised for a takeover at Selhurst Park,

McAvoy was only appointed two months ago to help resolve Palace's financial problems, but now considers his position "untenable" as he admits he is "in fundamental disagreement over the direction and management of the club". However, yesterday Goldherg said: "A takeover by

BY WYN GRIFFITHS possible as I am not selling my

stake in Crystal Palace." The Football Association's technical director. Howard Wilkinson, has countered a club v country wrangle by insisting he will not be calling on the Premiership's leading young players for the Under-20 World Cup

later this year. Wilkinson was heading for confrontation with those clubs who feared he would pick their best youngsters for the competition, to be held in Nigeria from 3 to 24 April, but he said: "I never had any intention of taking players who are involved on a regular basis with their first teams."

Paulo Di Canio has been passed fit to again play for Sheffield Wednesday, but his return to the Premiership is on hold as the club are refusing to meet all the disgraced Italian's demands. After a medical last week, the 30-year-old forward banned for 11 weeks for pushing over referee Paul Alcock - has been given the allclear to return, but has made a number of requests, chiefly that he be paid the wages

amount to £102,000. West Ham's efforts to check the form of the Rangers striker Marco Negri has hit a snag. The Hammers wanted to play the Italian in reserve games this week against Brighton and - McAvoy or anyone else is not Peterborough.

docked by the club, which

player registered to a league in another country can not play trial games, so West Ham would have to commit themselves to three-month loan if they wanted to play Negri in the Combination. The club claim it is too early to do that but, if they like what they see in training, could negotiate a loan deal to keep him in east London until the end of the season.

West Ham's search for a replacement for John Hartson. sold to Wimbledon last week, is unlikely to be Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The Norwegian says he is happy to remain at Manchester United, "If I had been at any other club but United then I think I would have gone to the manager and asked to leave," he admitted. "But I want to stay here and win things.

The French Under-21 international Cedric Marcelin has joined Southampton on a week's trial. Saints hope to arrange a loan deal with the Bordeaux midfielder if he impresses this week.

Birmingham are giving a trial to AIK Stockholm's Swedish international Alexander Osthund. The 21-year-old striker will play for the club's reserves against Sunderland

David Platt has made his first permanent signing at Sampdoria. The Portuguese midfielder Giudoni Dorival Jnr cited the former England skipper as the reason behind his move from Porto to Serie A.



حيكذا من الاعل

Gary Mabbutt: forced to retire from the game by knee injury at the age of 37 Allsport

Injury forces out Mabbutt

forced to bring an end to his playing career after finally admitting defeat in his efforts to return to football after a serious knee injury.

The former Tottenham defender has been told by a specialist to retire, ending a four-month rehabilitation after surgery to repair a fragmented knee cap. Mabbutt had been consid-

ering offers from other clubs following the expiry of his contract at Spurs last summer, but his future depended on being given a clean bill of health by a specialist. Those plans have now been shelved by the 37year-old, as the latest in a long line of problems has taken its toll

Having been diagnosed a diabetic in his early teens, once lapsing into a coma when he missed an insulin injection, Mabbutt had his cheekbone shattered by John Fashanu in 1993 and suffered a broken leg on the opening day of the 1996-97 season. But despite being forced to retire, the former England international who won 16 caps, insisted: Why should I be bitter?"

He added: "I've had a fantastic career and played for one of the biggest clubs in the country for 16 years, and also played

GARY MABBUTT has been for my country. I have a lovely wife and beautiful daughter. I have had nothing to complain about have I?"

Mabbutt was a member of Spurs' 1984 Uefa Cup-winning side, and after scoring an own goal to gift Coventry the FA Cup three years later, went on to lift the trophy as captain in 1991 after a 2-1 win over Nottingham Forest. In all, he made 618' appearances for Tottenham, scoring 36 goals, but the injuries

caught up with him. He said: "When my contract at Tottenham finished last summer I had a number of offers to become a player-manager, player-coach or remain as a player. As my main love in the game has been to play, I wanted to continue as a player for as long as I could.

"Unfortunately, I left Tottenham with a knee injury that I had picked up during last season and although the problem seemed minor, I wanted to get the knee sorted out before signing for a new club.

"After a meeting with my specialist to discuss the situation, it has been decided that it is in my best interests to retire from professional football.

"I will now wait and see what opportunities arise before making a decision on my

Vale chairman threatens to sell

A DAY after sacking the long- BY PHIL SHAW serving John Rudge as manager, Port Vale's chairman threatened to sell the struggling First Division club if angry fans continued to vilify him and his family.

Bill Bell, a Potteries car dealer, was speaking to Radio Stoke after backing out of a press conference called to defend the decision to dismiss Rudge after 15 years. "As far as I'm concerned, I shan't take much flak," he said. "Otherwise I might join him [Rudge]. My wife has already had abuse on the phone. If that continues, I shall walk away as well."

Bell, who said that Vale are losing £40,000 per week, acknowledged that the parting traumatic". But he insisted there was "no alternative" other than to seek "a new face" after 12 defeats in 14 games and with attendances down to 5,500. "It had to be done." Bell said. "We needed to stem the

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (M

field wasn't what the supporters or ourselves expected it to be. We had to do something because it's absolutely vital that we stay in this division."

A small huddle of reporters. and two television crews, had gathered. Bell, apparently startled by the level of interest, declined to address them. Before leaving Vale Park he was heckled by protesters who had waited in the rain to demand Rudge's reinstatement. One fan had earlier walked into the club's offices and handed in the family's seven season-tickets, saying: "We won't be coming again."

Bell also confirmed that he would be meeting Rudge to discuss Vale's offer of a post as director of football. Brian Horton, the Brighton manager and former Vale captain, is favourite to succeed Rudge after his chairman, Dick Knight, said he would not stand in his way.

Ferguson could retire from United in 2003

ALEX FERGUSON may retire as Manchester United manager in 2003. United are due to open contract negotiations with Ferguson over a new deal to replace his agreement which expires in the summer of 2000.

Ferguson, 57, who has been in charge of Manchester United since 1986, is now hinting he will step down when he is 61. "Who knows? I may ride off

into the sunset in four years Ferguson is already by far terest in him.

the longest-serving manager in the Premier League and to at Upton Park left by John stay until 2003 would take him just almost 17 years at Old Trafford.

United figure intent on re- Johan Semb, has already maining at the club well into the millennium. The Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is determined to see out the remaining five years of his sevenyear contract with the Reds, despite West Ham's reported in-

Solskjaer would fill the void Hartson's record £7.5m move to Wimbledon. The striker is on the sidelines at Old Trafford Ferguson is not the only and the Norway manager, Nils and win things." warned him that his internahe is not playing regular first-

> But Solskjaer, who turned down a £5.5m move to Tottenham in August, is determined

his place. He said yesterday: "If work for the team. If anyone for Sunday's FA Cup fourth I had been at any other club but United then I think I would have gone to the manager and asked to leave. Put I want to stay here

Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole tional career will be at risk if United's first choice strike pairing, but Solskjær is prepared to wait for his chance. He added: "The manager can see it is a frustrating time for me and he also knows I am deterto stay at United and fight for mined to get my place back and as he tries to recover in time

gets injured, and I hope they don't, then I am ready to come on. We want to win things this year and this is the way to do it. If you want to stay at Manchester United and win trophies ing the second half of Teddy and be successful then you have to work through the reserve games and that is what

Meanwhile, the winger David Beckham is receiving treatment for his groin injury

round game with Liverpool at Old Trafford. Ferguson has played down the seriousness of the problem after the England midfielder limped off dur-Scott's testimonial against Aberdeen. The United midfielder Nicky Butt has been given the all-clear to play at the weekend after he pulled out of Saturday's game against Leicester suffering from a

Devils hit by ban for **forward**

perleague title aspirations suffered a severe blow yesterday when their forward Mike MacWilliam was suspended for

The punishment from the Super League disciplinary committee follows a brawl at the end of the Devils' game with Nottingham Panthers last Thursday.

MacWilliam originally received a game misconduct and a gross misconduct penalty for fighting. But after reviewing a video of the incident, the ISL has thrown the book at the 31vear-oid Canadian.

It means the Devils will now be without the forward in what is a crucial spell for the Welshmen. Their win at Manchester on Sunday - only their second in the last seven games - cut Storm's lead at the top of the League to just six points. Breaking down his six-game

ban. MacWilliam misses two matches for unsportsmanlike conduct, one for verbal abuse of an official, one for being a repeat offender, one for resisting a linesman in the discharge of his duties and one for collecting his fourth game misconduct of the season. On top of that, he has also been fined £350.

Defenceman Frank Evans, who was given a game misconduct for fighting, has also Faced further punishment. His offence has now been upgraded to a match penalty for fighting and reckless use of his stick. He has been banned for two games and fined £250.

The Devils coach, Paul Heavey, also received a written warning, with specific regard to the control of his bench.

WORLD SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk) Second round: I. Gillett (Eng) bt S Glasson (Aus) 7-6 4-7 7-3 7-2: R Newman (Eng) bt R Brassey (NZ) 7-0 1-7 7-4 7-3, Third round: D Holt (Eng) bt P Foster (Scot) 7-1 7-6 7-5.

CRICKET SHOFFIELD SHIELD (Final day of four): Perth: Western Australia 245 (R M Baker 73, M E Hussey 62; A Symonds 4-39) and 209 (AJ Bichel 4-56); Oueensland 375 (S G Law 168) and 81 for 4, Queensland won by 6 wickets.

POOTBALL CONFERÊNCE: Po Leek v Southport (waterlagged plich).
FA UMBRO TROPHY Third vous

EWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First DIvision: Postponed: Totton v Fareham. RYMAN LEAGUE Pama Cup Second round: Postponed: Dulwich Hamlet v Hampton: Hendon v Heybridge Swifts. IRISH COCA-COLA LEAGUE CUP Pre-

DAY'S LATE RESULTS: HA Carling MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Aston Villa 3 Everton 0. Tennents Scottish Cup Second round: Queen's Park 1 Cochnacudin 1 (replay tanight). Second-round replay: Stiffing 2 Montrose 1 (Stiffing away to Hibernian in third round). FA Carlsberg Vasse Fourth round: FA Carlsberg Vasse Fourth round: Bowers Utd 1 Woodbridge Young 2 (set; Woodbridge of home to Carlsberg Vasse Carlsberg Vas beriey John in hith Foliati), reyman League Puma Cap tahrd rounds Enfield O Purfieet Z. Dr Martens league Premier Dholsion: Postponed: Atherstone Utd v Gresley Rovers. Unlifood League Pirst Division: Ashton 1 Itd 3 Great Harwood Kown O. North Western Trains League Floodill: Trophy third rounds: Curzon Ashton 1 Newcastle Yown O. Punchas League Premier Division: Belockum O Liverpool O. Third Division: Datington 1 Hardepool 2. Aston Instanation First Dhision: Peterborough 1 Aryenal O. The Times FM Vout Cup Third, rounds: Postpoped: Warford v Romford. Pourds reassic Presson 1 Arsenal 4, Wedy Scott Restimonals: Aberdeen 1 Marchesor Utd 1 (Aberdeen win 7-6 on penatries). Belgian League: Genk 3 Ostend 0.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of men including a police sergeant and a bank manager - who appeared in a Hong

Kong court yesterday charged with involvement in a football bribery case.

GOLF

US RYDER CUP TEAM STANDINGS: 1
D Dival 762.500ps; 2 M O'Meara 737.500;
3 J Furyk 515.500; 4 T Woods 506.875;
5 D Love 477.500; 6 5 Suricker 412.500;
7 F Couples 367.500; 8 B Mayfair 347.500;
9 P Mickelson 331.250; 10 J Stuman 315.417; 11 F Furk 305.000; 12 e J Maggert, L Janzen 295.000; 14 J Leonard 294.375; 13 F Stewart 292.500. (The Lop 10 following the US PGA Championship in August automatically qualify for the 12-man US team to play the 33nd Ryder Lop against Europe, September 24-26, of The Country Orth, Brookline, Mossochusetts).

WONEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1 A Sovenstam (Swe) 472.24pts; 2 K Wiebb (Aus) 335.28; 3 K Robbins (US) 287.54; 4 L Davies (GB) 249.49; 5 D Andrews (US) 238.34; 6 H Alfredson (Swe) 238.22; 7 L Neumann (Swe) 218.32; 8 J Inister (US) 216.03; 9 M Malton (US) 181.16; 10 8 Burton (US) 176.97. O'zber GB or Int: 19 L Hackney 125.96; 22 T J Johnson 114.85; 27 A Nicholes 111.58; 49 C Matchew 57.75; 57 H Dobson 51.18; 66 L Fairclough 48.24; 88 J Morels 36.75; 92 D Barnard 34.88; 99 K Marshall 32.95; 100 W Dicks 32.80.

NHL: Boston 8 Nashville 1; San Jose 4 New Jersey 1; Carolina 4 Toronto 2; Montreal 4 Washington 4 (of.) Bulfalo 4 Florida 0; Philadelphia 5 Ottawa 0; Vancouver 5 Dal-

RALLYING

MONTE CARDO RALLY Third day, Rights threed stages (261.16kms): 1 T Makinen (Fin) Missubish Lancer 3hr 5min 59.5sec; 2 G Pantzd (Fr) Subaru Impreza +156.1sec; 3 J Kankdunen (Fin) Subaru Impreza +1min 42.4sec; 4 P Liarti (It) Seat Cordoba +2:05.6; 5 C McRee (6B) Ford Focus +2:29.7; 6 F Delecour (Fr) Ford Escort +3:43.2; 7 B Thiry (Bell Subaru Impreza +3:57.1; 8 D Auriol (Fr) Poyota Corolla +4:49.7; 9 H Rowanpera (Fin) Seat Cordoba +5:45.4; 10 R Burns (GB) Subaru Impreza +5:13.8. Overati: 1 Makinen 3hr 48min 56.5sec; 2 Panuza 3:50.42.1; 8 Kanidunen 3:51.02.3; 4 McRae 3:51.44.2; 5 Delecour 3:53.06.4; 10 Burns 3:58.31.9.

RUGBY UNION WALES TRAINING SOLIAD (Five Nations' Championship v Scotland, 6 February, Bizrrayfield): Forwards: A Lends, J Humphreys, D Ybung (all Cardiff), C Anthony, D Morris, B Evans (all Swansca). B Williams (Richmond), P Rogers (London Hish), C Oulonell (Richmond), C C Charvis (Swonsea), M Woyle (all Lianell typridd). Backs: S Howarth (Sala)

narrepool, ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: Postponed: Richmond v Lecester (plch waterlagget; rearranged to Tuesday, 26 January at Madejski Stadium, Reading).

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY Pool A: Determined Debarreth Debarreth

mad: Pontypridd v Edinburgh Reivers logged pitch; playing tonlight). SAILING

British hopes of major financial support for the 1999-2000 Amer-ica's Cup took a knock yesterday as the Spirit of Britain chairman, Prothe Spirit of Britain chairman, Pro-fessor Andrew Graves, announced that the "protracted" negotiations of the last three weeks with a group seeking to restructure the whole campaign "have not produced any funding". But separate talks with a major manufacturer are continuing, though time to make host-building though time to make boat-buildi

SNOOKER NATIONS CUP (Telemest Arena, New-castle): Northern Ireland bt England 6-5: Scodand bt Wales 8-3. SQUASH

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL 7.30 unless stated FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAY

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP SECOND-ROUND REPLAY acuddin y Queen's Park . SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Livingston v East Fift ... THERD DIVISION

Dumbarton v Berwick A UMBRO TROPHY Third round: Rad-INTE Borough v Northwich Victoria (7.45). UNIBOND LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP DR MARTERS LEAGUE CUP Second round: Racing Out Warwick v Sutton Cold-field Town.

Notes County v Sheffield Utd (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE Second Dhriston: Harlow v Hemel Hempstead (7.45). Third Dhriston: Southall v Croydon Ath (7.45). SCREWIFL DIRECT LEAGUE Premier MINSTONIZAD KENT LEAGUE Pre-UNITET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Halisham v Eastbourne Utd.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE

LEAGUE First Division: Bilangham To v Bedington Terriers; Jarrow Roofing West Auckland.

PA YOUTH CUP Third-round replay Hardepool Utd v Barnet (7.0); Notth hard Forest v West Brornwich Albion (7. for The Managher.

COUNTING LEAGUE Premier Division: Birmingham v Sunderland (7.15) (at Hednesford Nown PC): Leicesser v Preston (7.0). First: Division: Middlesbrough v Barnsley (7.0) (at Billingham Synthonia PC): Port Vale v Wolverhampton (7.0): West Bromwich v Burnley (7.0) (at Halesowen Town PC): Second Division: Huddersfield v Rotherham (7.0): Lincolo v Showashire Town FC). Second Blussions Huddersheld v Rotherham (7.0): Lincoln v Shrewsbury (2.0) (at lincoln little FC). Newcastle v Brodford (2.0) (at Newcastle RUFC): York v Scarborough (7.0). Third Divisions Bury v Rochdale (2.0): Hull v Chesterfield (2.0): Scanthorpe v Halifax (7.0): Wigan v Chester (2.0). Postponed: Welsall v Carlisle. League Cup Group Tibrae: Tranmere v Manchester City (7.15).

ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Divisions Bournemouth v Wycombe (2.0) (at Wycombe): Brentford v Milhvall (1.0): Chelsea v Oxford (7.0): Ipswinch v Swindon (7.0): Norwich v Reading: Southampton v Luton: Totterham v Cambridge. Postponed: Wimbledon v Watford.

Arena in Birmingham from 24 to 28 March, are to be postponed until the autumn because of problems of gaining sponsors for the event. Ing sponsors for the event.

INCHONAL SUPPER LEAGUE: Halifax Insurance 1 Durraven Windows Maesteg 2

(Halifax names first: A Toes lost to D Evans

3-9 4-9 3-9; P Hargrave lost to M Cairus

6-9 8-10 3-9; D Compton bt G Tippings

9-6 10-8 7-9 5-9 9-4).

NEW YEAR GRAND TOURNAMENT [Dityo] 10th day (of 15): Asahiyutaka (won 4. lost 6) bt Asanosho (4-6): Kinkalyama (1-9) bt Mitroizumi (4-6): Goloro (5-5) bt Ganyu (6-4): Bochinonada (6-4) bt Wakanojo (5-5): Kaho (5-5) bt Oglishiki (5-5): Kyokushuzan (5-5) bt Oewaarashi (1-6, absent for three rounds): Hamanoshima (8-2) bt Terao (5-5); Chiyotenzan (7-3) bt Higonoumi (6-4): Toki (5-5) bt Shikishima (6-4): Tochinowaka (4-6) bt Aogiyama (2-8): Takatorfid (5-5) bt Rosanoumi (3-7); Kotonoshiki (4-6) bt Addinoshima (7-3); Dejima (5-5) bt Tochiazuma (5-5); Musoyama (7-3) bt Tamakasuga (3-7); Kotonowaka (6-4) bt Kalo (4-6): Musashimaru (5-5) bt Minatofuji (3-7); ChiyotaRai (9-1) bt Takanonami (4-6); Kotonyu (5-5) bt Takanonama (6-4); Wakarohana (10-0) bt Tokitsuumi (3-7).

SWIMMING

Fina, the world governing body, is offering \$15,000 (£9,000) for each world record broken at the world Kong from 1 to 4 April. Montreal is to bid to stage the 2003 Montreal is to bid to stage the 2003 world long-course championships. WORLD CUP SHORT COURSE MEET. ING (Hobart, Taxmanda): Ment 50m backstroke: 1 M Welsh (Aus) 24.89; 2 A Radley (Aus) 25.41; 3 D Carlsson (Swe) 25.76. 50m freestyle: 1 N Rickard (Aus) 22.28; 2 A Luderitz (Ger) 22.41: 3 L Frolander (Swe) 2247; 5 S Brinn (GB) 22.75. 100m breaststroke: 1 P isakson (Swe) 1:00.52; 2 P Rogers (Aus) 1:00.73; 3 D Floravanti (It) 1:00.90, 100m batterfly: 1 L Frolander (Swe) 52.67; 2

The British Open Championships, scheduled for the National Indoor

RUGBY UNION WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY

> Aberavon v Natal Wildebeest (7.0) Caerphiliy v Georgia (7.15) Pontypridd v Edinburgh Reivers (7.15) . POOL B Bridgend v Gauteng Falcons (7.15) ... Newport v Blue Bulls (7.0)..... CLUB MATCHES: Oxford University v Combined London University (7.15): Cambridge University v RAF (7.15). Post-poned: Royal Navy v Combined London on

> > BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester Gi-ants v Worthing Bears (7.30); Tharnes Val-ley Tigers v London Towers (8.0). ICE HOCKEY

BASKETBALL

BOWLS: World Indoor Singles Champ-lonship (at Potters Leisure Resort, Hop-ton-on-Sea, Norfolk). SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish, British Open, World Championship (or Nor-breck Castle Hotel, Bladspool). Nations Cup

M Klim (Aus) 53.57; 3 L Dunne (Aus) 53.84. 200m backstroke: 1 B Bridge-53.84. 200m backtstroke: 1 B Bridge-water (US) 1:55.25: 2 E Merisi (It) 1:57.10: 3 R Romero (Bra) 1:58.52: 200m freestyle: 1 I Thorpe (Aus) 7:45.71; 2 G Hackett (Aus) 1:47.04; 3 Kim 1:47.30. 1500m freestyle: 1 G Hackett (Aus) 14:4396; 2 E Brembills (It) 14:57.37; 3 M Hooper (US) 15:00.08. 200m indi-vidual medies; 1 M Dunn (Aus) 1:58.39; 2 C Keller (Ger) 1:58.84; 3 J Norris (Aus) 2:00.51.

2 C Keller (Ger) 1:58,84; 3 J Norris (Aus) 2:00.51.

Whomen: 50m breaststroke: 1 P Heyris (SA) 31.18; 2 5 Riley (Aus) 32.01; 3 H Denman (Aus) 32.07. 50m betterfly: 1 J Thompson (US) 26,55; 2 A-K Kammerling (Swe) 25.77; 3 J Sjoberg (Swe) 27.09; 5 N Jackson (GB) 27.69. 100m backstroke: 1 A Buschschuite (Ger) 1:00.84; 2 M Nakao (Japan) 1:0112; 3 G Rooney (Aus) 1:0128. 100m breastyle: 1 J Thompson (US) 53,65; 2 K Melssner (Ger) 54.48; 3 L Johnke (Swe) 55.18. 200m breaststroke: 1 S Riley (Aus) 2:25.43; 2 Hui Ol (Ch) 2:25.88; 3 A Shirata (Japan) 2:26.93. 200m betterfly: 1 S O'Neili (Aus) 2:07.36; 2 K Jake (Ger) 2:1121; 3 Sjoberg 2:1131; 5 M Pedder (GB) 2:11.48. 400m freestyle: 1 S-J D'Arcy (Aus) 4:10.42; 2 J Lilliage (Swe) 4:12.82; 3 J Nakatani (Japan) 4:12.87. 100m fordividual medley: 1 J Thompson (US) 1:00.77; 2 M Limpert (Can) 1:0277; 3 L Munz (Aus) 1:0304. 400m individual medley: 1 J Malar (Can) 4:38.12; 2 J Parmenter (US) 4:44.12; 3 M McMahon (Aus) 4:44.44.

THE N. W. I. S.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne)

Man's singles, first round: J Courier (US)
bt P Wessels (Neth) 6-3 6-2 7-6: G Roux
(Fr) bt A Martin (Sp) 6-3 7-5 6-4: F Santoro (Fr) bt D Calwell (US) 6-2 6-4 6-4;
T Haze (Ger) bt M Konlmann (Ger) 7-6 6-2
7-5: A Medvedev (Ukr) bt J Bonver (SA)
7-6 6-1 3-6 6-3: W Black (Zim) bt A Volnea
(Rom) 6-2 6-4 6-1: V Spadea (US) bt R
Delgado (Par) 6-7 6-3 6-2 6-0; J Alonso
(Sp) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3 6-4 6-2: N Kleier
(Ger) bt C MOVA (Sp) 6-7 6-4 7-6 6-3: G
Pozzi (Ir) bt O Serrano (Ir) 3-6 6-3 7-6
6-3: A AGASSI (US) bt H Gurny (Arg) 6-0
6-3 6-0: P Korda (Cz Rep) bt G Blanco
(Sp) 6-3 6-7 6-4 6-7 6-2: G RUSEDSKI
(GB) bt S Draper (Aus) 7-6 2-6 6-4 7-6;
A Pawel (Rom) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 7-6 6-2
4-6 6-4: J Stottenberg (Aus) bt F Jonsson
(Swe) 6-3 7-6 6-4: C Arnaud (Fr) bt S
Campbell (US) 4-6 6-3 6-4 6-4: P Golstein
(US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 2-6 6-3 6-0 6-2;
H Dreekmann (Ger) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-2
2-6 6-4 6-3: C Mamilt (US) bt S Koubek
(Aut) 6-4 6-3 6-2; S Huet (Fr) bt A D hasouale (Fr) 1-6-3 6-1 6-2; S Schallen
(Neth) bt T Muster (Aut) 2-6 6-3 6-3; L Hewatt (Aus) bt C Contact
(Fr) 6-3 6-1 6-1.

Milliomen's singles. First: round: A
KOURNIKOVA (Rus) bt A Carberum (Fe)
2-5 K Bread (IUS) bt A Carberum (Fe) Williams's singles. First round: A KOURNIKOVA (Rus) bt J Craybas (US) 7-6 7-5; K Brandl (US) bt A Cocheteur (Fr) 6-1 6-1; S Williams (US) bt R Sandu (Rom)

6-2 6-3; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt A Molik (Aus) 6-4 3-6 6-3; S GRAF (Ger) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-0 6-3; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt D Chladkova (Cz Rep) 6-4 6-2; E Calleris (Bel) bt Wang Shi-Ting (Talw) 6-2 6-3; S TESTLD (Fr) bt T Snyder (US) 6-3 6-2; E Likhovtseva (Rus) bt N Miya-gi (Japan) 6-2 6-2; A Glass (Ger) bt S Fa-rina (it) 4-6 7-5 6-4; A Serra-Zanetti (It) bt M Diaz-Olina (Arg) 6-1 6-2 T Paneva graphin 4-6 7-5 6-4; A Serra-Zanerti (II) bt M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) 6-1 6-2: T Panova (Rus) bt T Tanasugari (Thai) 7-5 7-6; V R Pascual (Sp) bt R Bobkova (Cz Rep) 6-0 6-3: B Schwartz (Aut) bt M Shaughnessy (LIS) 6-3 6-2: A COETZER (SA) bt 5 Kleinova (Cz Rep) 6-4 2-6 7-5: M Seles (US) bt T Krizan (Soven) 6-1 6-0; A SANCHEZ VIC-ARIO (Sp) bt M De Swardt (SA) 6-2 6-2: A Frazier (US) bt A Sugnyama (Japan) 6-3 4-6 6-4: R Grande (II) bt T Garbin (It) 6-7 6-0 9-7: S Appelmans (Bel) bt C Martinez Granados (Sp) 6-0 6-2: A Serra-Zaneti (It) bt M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) 6-2 6-2: M HINGS (Swit) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-2 6-1: J Dokic (Aus) bt E Makarova (Rus) 6-2 6-1: J Dokic (Aus) bt E Makarova (Rus) 6-3 5-7 6-4: J Lee (Dawly bt L Nemeckova (Cz Rep) 6-0 6-2: B Schett (Aut) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-4 6-0: S Reeves (US) bt F Perfetti (It) 7-5 6-3: M.J Fernandez (US) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-1 6-0: E Dementiesa (Rus) bt G Pizz-chiri (It) 6-3 6-4: M Saeki (Japan) bt S 7-3 6-3; MJ Fernandez (US) of L Golarsa (It) 6-1 6-0; E Demendieva (Rus) br G Pizzi-chini (It) 6-3 6-4; M Saeki (Japan) bt S Jeyaseekan (Can) 6-3 6-6; L Fang (Ch) bt C Barclay (Aus) 6-3 6-2; L Fang (Ch) bt R Kuti Ris (Hun) 7-5 6-4; M Serna (Sp)

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The Control

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NEW PUPILS FOR VENETIA P25 • AUSTRALIA'S TENNIS WONDERBOY P26

England's precarious peace deal

WHO WOULD have thought it? In the biggest shock to hit rugby since New Zealand beat Japan in the 1995 World Cup the All Blacks sneaked a tight game 145-17 – England were last night re-admitted to the Five Nations championship after a whole 24 hours in the wilderness. The sport's governing classes could sleep soundly in their beds once more, safe in the knowledge that their astonishing ability to make Fred Karno's Army look like the SAS remained undi-

clusion to this latest pseudo-political charade came when Allan Hosie, the Scottish chairman of the Five Nations committee, emerged from a fireside meeting in a Glasgow pub to trumpet an agreement thrashed out with Brian Baister, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union, and Bill Beaumont, the former England Grand Slam captain, who was drafted in to play the honest broker role. But while Hosie and Beaumont spoke of their "delight" at reaching a solution. others were counting the cost of another desperately damaging episode in the short but tential loss of £12 million conchaotic history of professional

Revered rugby figures thoroughly discredited: Rob Andrew, the former England outside-half, described the events of the last few days as "staggering" while Gavin Hastings. who captained both Scotland and the Lions, said he was "sickened" by this latest outbreak of brinksmanship. Serge Blanco, the great French fullback who is fast emerging as one of the most influential figures in European rugby, spoke of his "disbelief" at the breakdown between England and their Celtic neighbours.

Despite yesterday's hastily concocted deal, the critics will

By Chris Hewett

by the conflicting statements issued by the two sides. While Hosie was insisting that the RFU had agreed "unequivocally" to abide by the terms of the 1996 Five Nations Accord on the division of television monies, the document at the heart of the dispute, the power-brokers of Twickenham were equally adamant that their worries over the small print would be fully addressed. "We are The entirely predictable conpleased that this agreement has been reached and that we can now begin discussions on our concerns regarding the accord," said Francis Baron, the RFU's chief executive.

> As the dust settled on a day of frenzied diplomatic activity it became clear that the sponsors of the championship, Lloyds TSB, had succeeded in banging together a few heads. Furious senior company representatives met Roger Pickering, the Five Nations chief executive, in London and made it abundantly clear that their existing deal was very much at risk. Not surprisingly, the pocentrated rugby minds

Even though the RFU has



hardly have been reassured Beaumont: Honest broker

layed investigation into the distribution of the millions of pounds generated by the most popular annual championship in world sport, the tournament is not yet out of the woods. Twickenham's commercial hard-liners, led by Baron, are deeply suspicious of the terms of an accord signed during a previous management regime and despite their relative wealth - they receive £13 million a year from BSkyB broadcasting rights alone - they are certain to press for a more favourable

know how much money Italy will bring to the table when the first Six Nations championship is launched next year and, more importantly still, they will demand clarification of the current French position in relation to television cash. Somewhere along the line, France managed to negotiate a cosy little get-out clause allowing them to keep every last franc of their own TV income until 2002. Under the accord, the other Five Nations countries must pool their in-Even if the independent val-

uation is accepted by all sides and the money squabbles come to an end, the poison released queued up to pour scorn on a agreed that Arthur Harverd, by this affair is likely to stay in body of administrators now an independent valuer ap- the bloodstream of the northpointed by the Law Society, ern hemisphere game for a figures believe a kangaroo court was in operation in Dublin last Friday, when the expulsion decision was taken without a formal Five Nations committee vote, and still consider themselves the meat in a Celtic sandwich. Only when the Italians come on board next year will they feel less exposed to the whims of Scotland, Wales and Ireland, whose block voting antics were one of the prime causes of the English clubs' boycott of this season's European Cup.

More rugby, page 25

Tuesday's Solution

deal at the forthcoming talks. In particular, they want to

England's Graeme Hick steers the ball away on the leg side during his unbeaten 66 yesterday against Sri Lanka

Gough's intelligence makes the decisive contribution

IT IS beginning to look seriously as if England are on a roll. Oneday cricket may be a hothouse casino where the wheel of fortune can turn quickly but they have surely stacked up too many winnings to blow it all now. An emphatic seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka here was their fourth from five matches in the Carlton & United Series and by some distance their most emphatic.

The contest was all but decided early when Darren Gough blasted his way through the Sri Lankan top order Recovery from 21 for 4 is a monumental task in any form of cricket and in the abbreviated variety is bordering on the impossible. There is simply too little room left for manoeuvre. That Sri Lanka recovered to make as many as 178 all out was largely down to the cool authority of their captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, but the total entered the realms of competitiveness only narrowly. They already seemed consigned to their third defeat of this triangular and their eight consecutively in all.

England, who brought in John Crawley for Neil Fairbrother on fitness grounds and Vince Wells for Ashley Giles on tactical ones, started confidently in pursuit. They lost both openers in swift succession but were then guided to the finishing line by Graeme Hick, who was as controlled as he had been in Sydney two days earlier. It was Gough, rightly, who won the man of the match award. This has been a long tour for

the Yorkshireman and if he is tired, or jaded, or both it is per-

BLACKBURN ROVERS want

Liverpool to pay Jason McAteer

£1m to leave Anfield. The

Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, is

hoping to persuade the Re-

public of Ireland international

to move, despite him earning

£1.2m per year at Anfield, a fig-

Blackburn have suggested

Liat Liverpool give McAteer a

share of the proposed £4.5m

transfer fee as a "loyalty" pay-

ment. McAteer - who still has

Ewood Park.

By STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Melbourne

Sri Lanka 186 England 189-3 England win by 7 wickets

fectly understandable. But he has bowled his socks off for three months, often without his due reward. He has been nothing short of noble in England's cause and his opening spell yesterday fitted neatly into the routine. He was quick and he gave nothing away and served after this victory, free of his wickets were earned by a pain. This was one of the good combination of intelligent and

incisive bowling. He had Sanath Jayasuriya caught low down at point, bowled Romesh Kaluwitharana with a ball of good length which whistled past the outside edge, persuaded Marvan Atapattu to flirt outside the off stump and to complete the set dispatched chewed his gum a bit more young all-rounder Upul Chana yorker beneath Hashan Tillakaratne's bat. The spell was 4 for 5 in 21 balls and nobody, except the hapless Sri Lankans, would have begrudged him a single one.

Gough refused to set wicket targets at the start of the tour - small wonder since his return of 21 in the Ashes series was scant return for sterling efforts - but he has certainly enhanced his status. He has stayed fit and free of injury for the first time on such a long trip, although not as he wryty obnights but that point served to remind what a hard and thank-

less job fast bowling can be. At the point Gough took his fourth wicket, Ranatunga shuffled his way to the crease and took in the afternoon air. If he was at all perturbed it was impossible to tell, though maybe he

quickly. At the crucial landmark dans put on 92 in 120 balls. of 15 overs the great pinch hitters of the modern game were 27 for 4. Alan Mullally having given Gough splendid new ball support. Ranatunga chewed his gum and stuck out his chest. He treats the freneticism of one-day cricket by making it look as if he is off for a gentle stroll in the stumps. Ranatunga was ad-

He never wastes energy in running the first one quickly, for over when, after facing 105 instance, unless absolutely necballs for his 76, he tried to reessary. He knows instinctively gain his ground after backing when there is one and saunters it, probably musing on the Nasser Hussain's throw rather meaning of life on the way. When he bats he looks as if he could be anywhere else in the required. Nick Knight dashed world but a cricket pitch. It is all part of the Arjuna Roadshow, of course. He is alert to every ball and to every trick, though he is not quite as swift on his feet as events were to transpire.

as usual, Alec Stewart kept pace. They had shared 52 in 11 utterly untroubled overs when Knight flashed his cut down point's throat of the last ball Nuwan Zoysa's second over. Despite the crisis, he and the Stewart clipped the first ball of

too quick.

his third to an effusive Ranatunga at short midwicket. But that was as far as it went. Hick and Hussain consolidated once more and although Hussain was stumped by Kalnwitharana off a beauty from Muttish Muralitharan which came out Mullally. Bowling: Vans 10-0-39-0 (nb1) (4-0-21-0 2-0-7-0 2-0-8-0 2-0-3-0): Wickersof the back of the hand when they had put on 62 (the wickmasinghe 10-0-35-0 (w2) (Wichramasinghe 10-0-35-0 (w2) (7-0-22-0 3-0-13-0); Zoyse 6-1-22-2 (w1) (one spell); Muraltharan 10-0-40-1 (nb2) (5-0-23-0 3-0-10-1 2-0-7-0); Chandana 7-2-0-38-0 (w2) (2-0-5-0 2-0-12-0 3-0 16-0 0.2-0-5-0); Jayasuriya 2-0-13-0 (w2) (one spell) etkeeper having muffed an earlier chance from an unreadable leg break) it was all too late. Crawley joined Hick (a studied, composed 66 in 71 balls) and England won at a canter with 28 balls left. They do not look like a side ready to cash in their

Chandana made his first one-

day international fifty but was

out immediately after.

Ranatunga might have been

run out by Gough when he was

57 when the bowler, following

up, executed an impeccable

left-foot shot that hit the

judged not out but there was to

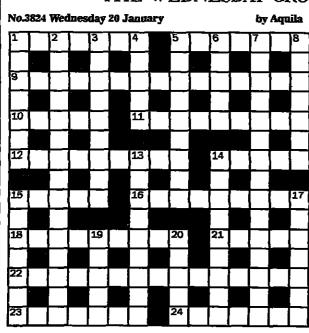
be no escape in the penultimate

up, turned too slowly and found

England had the start they

Time running out for West Indies, page 23

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS Risks being left out of 3's part of church? (7) Source of magnetic storm in torrid holiday

resort? (7)

New motoring article functions (15) 10 Rambler involved in

Karachi kerfuffie (5) 11 No bigger helpings of soup for 20? (9) 12 Make unpredictable Ro- 2

man ides, perhaps (9) 14 Grasses blown in the wind (5) 15 Attitude of those in trou- 5

ble (5) 16 Following endless complaint, tiro turns out to 7 be clumsy (9)

18 Model, just to provide

21 Better half goes to city, by and by (5) 22 Stop, possibly, wander-

ing up mountain track Book store (7) concerned with angular 24 Time of graceful deliveries? (7) DOWN

One who traps animal, dear to the French (7) Nether Wallop (1,4,2,3,5) Lads in the stalls? (9) Second hood on chimney has a dirty look (5) Veronica, say, to race expertly (9) Bottle never broken? (5)

Imagine pale eccentric

with letter not under

Masses of scree giving us slate pieces (7)

Come in and settle

down (9) 14 Fragrance of elder, once cut up? (9) 15 One who dodges frolic at

quarters (7) 17 Old jailer's name at heart of theatrical flop (7) 19 Two-way blade (5) 20 Ravel's dance? (5)

OPublished by Independent Newspapers (UK) Lamited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL, and printed at Mirror Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

MELBOURNE SCOREBOARD J P Crawley not out 68 min, 52 balls, 1 four Extras (fb2,w7,nb3)

Sri Lanka won toss
SRI LANKA
T Jayasuriya c Hussain b Gough
9 min. 17 balls
R S Kaluwitharana b Gough1
8 min. 20 balls, 3 fours
S Atapattu c Hick b Gough
6 min. 11 bails
P Tillakaratne b Gough
9 min. 13 balls
P M Javawardena c Stewart
b Hollioake1
8 min. 38 balls, 1 four
A Ranatunga run out (Hussain-Gough) 7

min. 3 balls D N T Zoysa run out (Eakham-Mullahy)....0 2 min, 0 bolis

FOOTBALL

fer and is therefore entitled to

loyalty money. Blackburn would

pay around £18,000 a week and

teer's drop in pay by giving

them a severance sum, the

Liverpool are thinking over

deal could yet be on.

BY ALAN NIXON

balls, 15 overs score: 27 for 4. Ranatunga 50: 105 min, 76 balls, 3 fours. Chandana 50: 71 min, 67 balls, 3 fours.

have cleared a sizeable amount

from the sale, and removed his

£1m pay-off for McAteer would

make the leaving of Liverpool

Another Liverpool player

likely to be happier to move is

Rob Jones, who will collect

more agreeable to the player.

Wells 3-0-20-0 (one spell each). Progress: 50: 100 min. 138 balls. 100: 138 min, 201 balls. 150: 178 min. 263

-16-0 0.2-0-5-0); Jayaskinya and 19-0 (w2) (one spell).
Progress: 50: 45 min. 64 talls. 100: 108 min. 152 balls. 150: 154 min. 218 balls. 15 overs soore: 60 for 2.
Hisch 50: 110 min. 77 balls. 2 fours.
Result: England won by 7 wickets.
Man of the mabch: D Gough
Unspires: D J Harper and T A Prue.
TV replay umpire: G T D Morrow
Match Referee: P L van der Merwe
Compiled by Jo King

Blackburn seek £1m McAteer pay-off

hack to McAteer, they would still year ago. Jones' deal runs out A third Liverpool player, the wages from their payroll. A striker Sean Dundee, rejected a move to the French club Strasbourg yesterday and will instead look for a new club in England. The South Africanborn German has been told he is not in manager Gerard Houl-

£1.1m a year in wages from Ron Atkinson yesterday West Ham when he accepts a the idea and may agree as they move to London. Liverpool will made his first purchase as the are picking up a larger fee for receive just £200,000 for the formanager of Nottingham Forest, most of his five-year contract to McAteer than they expected. mer England international who

Even with around film given was rated at around f3m a Palmer for f1.1m from Southampton,

First Division Portsmouth today face the first of two potentially fatal winding up orders, three days before playing Leeds in the FA Cup. The first order will be brought against the club by the building company, Try Build, which is owed £435,000 for work on the ground's Fratton End Stand The second, more threatening, order, will come on 3 February. It has been taken out against Pompey by the signing the 33-year-old Carlton Inland Revenue for £430,000.

ure well above the pay scale at if Liverpool make up for McA-

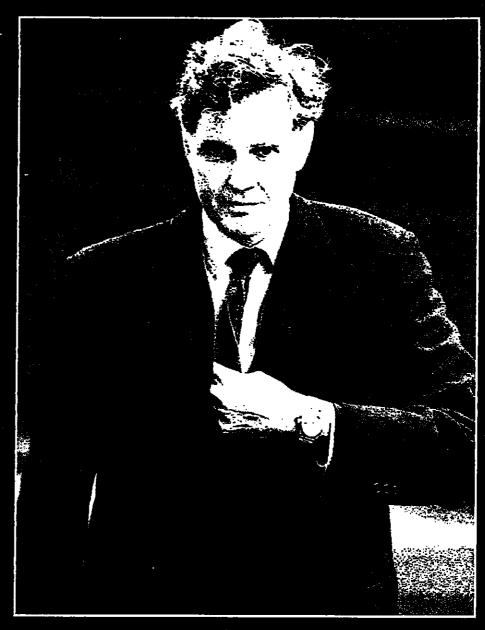
المجداس الاجل

VEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • **TELEVISION**

Twenty years ago his star was in the ascendant. Jonathan Aitken mixed with beautiful women. made millions and was tipped to be a future Prime Minister. Today he is disgraced, divorced and facing a lengthy prison sentence. This is the story of the man who lied and lost





A broken man

t was a pleasant evening of good food, fine wine all seemed to be going so well. Already he had a blossoming and exquisite company. Jonathan Aitken, 30, successful, handsome and with all the right connections, was charting the future course of his life to a choice selection of his actor friends and chums in the media. Go into business and become fabulously rich, become an MP, then a minister and finally prime minister. There were dates for the scaling of each of these peaks. The climb was slower than be anticipated. But 22 years later, in ■ 1994, he was in the Cabinet as chief secretary to the Treasury. He'd made a pile of money from lucrative business deals with Arabs. And he owned properties at home and abroad including a £2m Westminster house, the former London home of Brendan Bracken, where he entertained the likes of Richard Nixon, Margaret Thatcher and Henry Kissinger. The downfall that followed is almost Shakespearean in its di-

mensions: here stands a man fatally flawed by his own arrogance. The final act came with his disastrous High Court action against The Guardian and Granada TV, and the words that would later come back to haunt him: "the simple sword of truth and the trusty shield of British fair play."

Aitken had sued over a series of serious allegations made about his relationship with wealthy Arabs, including the report that a £1,000 bill for his stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993 had been paid by a Saudi contact. Giving evidence, Aitken lied under oath about the payment, inventing roles in the saga for his wife and young daughter. He was found out and humiliatingly forced to withdraw his action. The man whose head had been full of great plans at the age of 30 suddenly discovered that he'd lost his credibility as a public figure.

The dreams of greatness are now just cold ashes. But yesterday the man once tipped as a future Tory leader managed to make a mark of sorts in history - as the first former cabinet minister to plead guilty to perjury and perverting the course of justice and, with that, likely to face a lengthy prison sentence.

Aitken is, he says, now broke. The house in Westminster will have to be sold. His marriage, he says, is over. Politically he is a man who is isolated, apart from a small circle of maverick right-

wing friends. What makes Aitken's decline and fall so spectacular is that his background really did suggest he was destined to live and prosper among the élite. He was born into a family from the pages of Who's Who. His great-uncle was Lord Beaverbrook, and his grandfather the distinguished colonial civil servant Lord Rugby. His father, Sir William Traven Aitken, was a Conservative MP.

The young Aitken was sent to Eton and then to Christ Church, Oxford, to read law. As an undergraduate he already had access to the corridors of power. Lord Beaverbrook acted as a conduit for the young man while advising him: "You must stir up mischief."

During his summer vacation Aitken worked as a speechwriter for Selwyn Lloyd, Harold Macmillan's chancellor of the exchequer. He built up a good relationship with Macmillan's successor as premier, Sir Alec Douglas Home, and at the age of 20 he was being lined up by Randolph Churchill, the Tory fixer, as a parliamentary candidate. Aitken joined one of the family newspapers, the Evening Standard, and soon published his first book, The Young Meteors, about the best and brightest of his generation who, he predicted, would rise effortlessly to claim their places as leaders of the country. Those he picked out included Nigel Lawson, David Steel, Norman Lamont, the actors Tom Courteney

and Vanessa Redgrave, and Mary Quant.

journalistic career and a safe Tory seat was on offer at Thirsk and Malton in North Yorkshire. But then there was the first public manifestation of fundamental character flaws: a tendency towards duplicity and an over-confidence in his ability to control situations and individuals - the very traits that would one day lead to his downfall. Aitken obtained a confidential report on the Nigerian Civil War from Major General Henry Templar Alexander, the father of one of his girlfriends, and sold it to The Sunday Telegraph. He then falsely told the general that Sir Hugh Fraser, the Tory MP, had supplied the story. It was Aitken's second betrayal of Fraser, a friend and benefactor. He was already having an affair with the man's wife.

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Publication of the report caused a diplomatic row and Aitken found himself for the first time in the dock at the Old Bailey in fact, in the same Court Number One where he was to plead guilty yesterday - charged under the Official Secrets Act. He was acquitted after a favourable summing-up from the judge, Mr Justice Caulfield (later to become famous for describing Mary Archer as "fragrant"), but picked up a reputation for untrustworthiness. He lost the Thirsk nomination, Temporarily frustrated in his political ambitions, Aitken turned his attention to money. The Middle East, he decided, was the place where an ambitious young man in a hurry could make his fortune. He started to make contacts among Arab businessmen, and his big break came with a meeting in Paris in 1973 with the Saudi Prince Iohammed bin Fabd. Twenty years later, another visit to Paris and the paying of a hotel bill by his Arab contacts were to lead to the High Court libel action and Aitken's fall.

The Arabian connection made Aitken enormously wealthy, enabling him to launch Aitken Hume International, a £50m financial services group, with his cousin Tim. He also built up investments in defence systems, a Hong Kong trading corporation and TV-AM where, famously, the presenter Anna Ford threw a glass of wine over him at a Chelsea party because she believed was behind her sacking from the breakfast-time line-up.

Aitken's political prospects revived when he entered the Commons in 1974 as MP for Thanet East (later the constituency became Thanet South). His right-wing credentials appeared to suit the winds of change blowing through the Conservative Party. He saw himself as one of the new ideologues and began hosting brain-storming dinners. His performance on the back bench was generally well reviewed.

Socially he built up a reputation as a ladies' man, having affairs with, as well as his friend Hugh Fraser's wife Antonia, Adnan Khashoggi's ex-wife Soraya - with whom, he was to discover recently, he had an illegitimate daughter - and Carol Thatcher. Aitken was used to casually discarding what he considered to be spent relationships, but the dumping of Margaret Thatcher's daughter proved costly. Lady Thatcher is said to have remarked that she would be damned if she was going to give a job to a man "who made Carol cry", and Aitken was never given the opportunity to escape the back benches during her term in office. She was also less than pleased when, in a newspaper interview, the brash young MP said of her: "I wouldn't say she is open-minded on the Middle East so much as empty-headed. She probably thinks Sinai is the plural of Sinus."

In 1979 Aitken married Lolicia Azucki, a Swiss economist born Aitken saw himself, of course, as one of the meteors and it in Yugoslavia. Even here there was an Arab connection. Lolicia

was introduced to Aitken by the mother of an Arab aide of Prince Mohammed. Lolicia gave him children and outwardly Aitken seemed to settle into domesticity. His busy political and business life was, he said, buttressed by Christianity, and he served as a churchwarden of St Margaret's, Westminster. But, like so much else in his life, this was not the whole story. His affairs continued, including a sado-masochistic one with a prostitute.

Aitken finally made it to ministerial office under John Major, first as defence procurement minister, then as Treasury chief secretary. Through his contacts he boosted British arms sales in the region. In 1994 he was with John Major in Riyadh when the Saudis signed a £5bn deal for Tornado fighter-bombers. Aitken was not slow to take credit for this business, and it also helped to some extent to camouflage his own mysterious dealings with the Saudis. However, as he climbed up the government ladder Aitken was starting to come under increased scrutiny.

His flaw was his arrogance. He didn't think he had to be careful. Was he not, after all, one of the masters of the universe, who could always win against lesser men? He was part of the system, and the system was there for him to use. Thus he took an extreme risk. As a minister, he visited his Saudi friends in Paris and allowed them pay his hotel bill. Mohamed al-Fayed, in the middle of his vengeful mission against the Conservative government, leaked the story.

When it appeared in print, Aitken sued. He could have settled the action before it got to court, but chose not to. His performance was assured, polished and full of lies. What shocked even some of his friends afterwards was the discovery that he was fully prepared to invent false statements about the role of his wife and teenage daughter in the affair. The High Court defeat brought humiliation and public opprobrium as well as the ominous prospect of a criminal investigation into perjury. Aitken announced that he and Lolicia, who had sat beside him day after day in court, were getting divorced .

As the days have gone by, the Aitken story has seen even more twists and turns. First there was Aitken's assertion that many of his assets belonged, in fact, to his wife and her family and thus should go to her as part of the divorce settlement. This also meant, of course, that The Guardian and Granada TV, to whom Aitken owed £2m in legal costs, would not be able to get their hands on the cash. Thus when his home in Sandwich, Kent, overlooking the Channel and Royal St George's golf course, was sold for around £500,000 it appeared to belong to a Panamanian company, set up by his wife's grandmother when she had bought the house for him and Lolicia. Even the car he uses in London, according to Aitken, belongs to his wife.

Then came his renewed interest in Christianity and an Alpha course (lessons in Christian basics) which he took at Holy Trinity Brompton, in west London. At the same time, efforts were being made to repair his tarnished image. A belated explanation for the Paris visit was touted around Fleet Street and eventually run by The Daily Telegraph. He claimed that he'd been on a secret mission for HMG to inform the Saudis about Iranian submarine movements.

This was dismissed by both Saudi and British sources. But the idea that he had been involved in some kind of noble selfsacrifice still lingered among some of his friends. Wait until the court case, they would say, the truth will out.

In court at the Old Bailey yesterday there were, of course, no great revelations. Instead, in a brief, subdued hearing in a cold courtroom, Aitken pleaded guilty and swept away the tatters that were left of his dreams of public life. Aitken's hubris, of course, makes it hard for him to accept this as his own fault.

Even now he sees himself as a great man brought down by lesser mortals. He told a friend recently that he recognised himself in some lines by Andrew Marvell, about Charles the First as he walked towards the scaffold: "He nothing little did or mean upon that memorable scene."

Perhaps a more apt epitaph would be Aitken's own for Richard Nixon, a man he admired so much he wrote his biography. *After* Watergate. These, too, are words destined to haunt. Aitken: "Even the most generous explanations for his conduct do not bring him exculpation. In his frenzied efforts to fight his way out of the quicksand ... he made himself guilty of ... deceit, negligence, bad judge-ment, mendacity, amorality and concealment."

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Send in the troops

Sir: Once more the West feels the need to take action over Kosovo. and rightly so. But this time can we agree that air strikes are not the solution?

It is impossible to punish Milosevic by attacking Yugoslavia with missiles, for he does not care at all what happens to Yugoslavia. Missile attacks only provide more opportunities for anti-Western propaganda, and do nothing to prevent more violence in Kosovo. As for stopping Kosovo Liberation Army killings with missiles, we don't even know where the missiles should be aimed.

By allowing Milosevic to play brinkmanship games with the threat of air assault, we are letting ourselves be distracted from the one viable action we can take sending in troops. Once we commit ground forces in sufficient numbers to enforce a ceasefire on both sides. we can begin to look for those politicians who genuinely want a peaceful solution to this crisis. MARK BASSETT New Malden, Surrey

Sir: I am utterly appalled by the double standards of the Anglo-American-led United Nations Security Council in their contrasting policies regarding Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. They appear arrogantly

contra-suggestible. On the one hand, where world opinion wants sanctions against Iraq lifted, they drop bombs on innocent Iragis; and on the other hand, where world opinion demands an end to the murder and mutilation of innocent Albanians in Kosovo, they turn the other cheek. WILLIAM BURNS South Queensferry West Lothian

Sir: Can we really expect Slobodan Milosevic to allow back into Kosovo the war crimes investigators who were sent to fulfil the relevant United Nations resolutions? I think not, when America has admitted its spies worked undercover as part of the UN weapons inspection team in Iraq. Information gathered by the internationally backed team was later used to aid US and British bombing raids. MICK McGANN Southampton

War is no game

Sir. One of the principal arguments put forward by the Ministry of Defence for recruiting 17-year-olds into the armed forces is that they are receptive to the forces' training and ethos ("Ban on soldiers under 18 resisted by Britain and US", 18 January).

This is precisely the reason why guerrilla groups around the world have taken to recruiting or pressganging 10-year-olds, and precisely why we should not expose impressionable minds to brutalisation. For army training does brutalise - it has to if it is to produce soldiers capable of killing to order. All the more reason then to ensure that those undergoing it are mature and are there from informed choice. Many 17-year-olds still see life as a game, and killing or learning to kill is not a game. BILL LINTON London N13

Sir: A major rationale for an international ban on soldiers under 18. which was missing from your article, is the difficulty of ascertaining the true age of young people in many countries. From Afghanistan to Sudan,

war has disrupted the system of birth registration. Without birth certificates, it is impossible to verify the true age of young soldiers who may say they are 16 but could be as young as 12. By encouraging a higher recruitment age of 18, as well as birth registration, we stand a better chance of ensuring that very young children are not recruited either MARIE STAUNTON Deputy Director UNICEF-UK London WC2

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Tough guys No 3: The pressure takes its toll on the hard men taking part in this month's annual Tough Guys race, in Staffordshire

Kalpesh Lathigra

Sir: In your report "Ban on soldiers under 18 resisted by Britain and the US", Save the Children Fund is incorrectly listed among a group of agencies campaigning to raise the UK armed forces recruitment aged to 18.

Save the Children Fund believes that war is no place for a child. Worldwide, 300,000 children under 18 years of age - some as young as seven - are estimated to be fighting in armed conflict. Children under the age of 18 should never be involved in combat, and we support current international efforts to achieve this

However, when affective safeguards are in place to prevent children entering into armed combat, Save the Children believes that 16- and 17-year-olds should be free to join the forces solely for the purposes of training and education. We are therefore urging the UK government to introduce a minimum age for active service in the British armed

MIKE AARONSON Director General Save the Children Fund London SE5

EU's Sir Humphrey

Sir. I beg you to reconsider your idea of directly electing Europe's chief bureaucrat (leading article, 15 January). A future Santer waving a "direct mandate from the people of Europe" in the faces of Council and Parliament would be a sight to behold.

Let us not get bamboozled by the US here. In their original constitution, it was the President's job to be chief bureaucrat - the "executive officer". To make sure the bureaucrat did not become a demagogue, the constitutional founders said he was to be not elected but appointed - by a weighted voting system of the state governments, as the EU Council appoints the President of the Commission today.

When direct election crept into the US system during the early

19th century, it did not exactly encourage a spirit of public service and a humble demeanour. If you really want a future Santer to start thinking he is "the" President instead of the Sir Humphrey he should be, by all means elect him.

Please keep the ideas flowing, though. I am sure I am not the only Europhile applauding your search for better mechanisms. Such as no fixed period of office for the President of the Commission so the Council can correct an unpopular mistake more quickly and with less embarrassment. **BOB WHITEHOUSE** London N7

Radio Dumb

Sir: The dumbing down of radio (report, 16 January; letters, 19 January) can, in part, be attributed to the studio audiences of so-called comedy programmes. The BBC seems desperate to drag in as many whistlers and whoopers as possible. They'll laugh at almost everything that is said because they understand they have to and because it's better to be safe than

Sir. The Church of England

think-tank proposal to make

inclusive seems sensible, given

the irreversibly plural nature

on coronation", 18 January).

committed to Jesus Christ -

legitimate a monarchy based

on wealth and privilege at all.

Sir: The Government speaks

Department of Education aims

with forked tongue. As a

parent, I am told that the

to improve literacy skills,

whilst my son's school

who said "the last shall be

why, in this era, a body

first" - still wishes to

Brighton, East Sussex

SIMON BARROW

of our society ("Church divides

But it raises the question as to

the coronation ritual more

serious. I suggest we need a **Humorous Fraud Office to** investigate this problem immediately. ROBERT VINCENT Andover, Hampshire

Sir: What is wrong with Radio Three is not "dumbing down" but far too much chatter during the music programmes, and too many extended trailers for future programmes. At the fifth or sixth repetition of a trailer we switch off and may forget to switch on again ERNEST RUDD

Sir. The biggest dumbing down is the ever-increasing use of the phrase itself. It is a gross insult to those deprived of the faculty of speech to imply that they are also LEN SALEM London W5

Safe plastic toys

Sir: The British Plastics Federation is fully aware of the **Dutch Consensus Group study** mentioned in your report "Additive

IN BRIEF

of the World for a free books

pressured by the Department

reduce patients' smoking, yet

takes me past large billboards

advertising the habit. What

making sense of such mixed

hope have our children of

Stretton-on-Dunsmore,

Sir: The habit of stating

Matt Cavanagh (letter, 13

January) as a sign of Tony

something three times, seen by

J. MENAGE

Warwickshire

offer. As a GP I am being

of Health to take steps to

my journey to the surgery

ordinated studies by the group showed exposure to phthalates from toys in real life chewing situations to be much less than had been supposed by the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment. On 30 November the committee recognised this in revised advice to the European Commission. The use of PVC in toys in general accounts for a very small

in toys linked to cancer" (14

January). This study confirmed

PVC toys. The results of the co-

the safety of phthalate plasticised

proportion of PVC consumption. Other polymers are used in toy applications, such as ABS and polypropylene, which also have good technical and aesthetic qualities. However, PVC in general can't necessarily be substituted by these polymers in PVC toy or

babycare applications. Neither DEHP nor DINP has been shown to be carcinogenic to humans. The animal studies mentioned were followed by investigations which showed that the mechanism involved in producing the cancer in rats (peroxisome proliferation) was

Blair's "sinister religiosity", is simply evidence that the speaker has attended a course on public speaking. Students are advised that in order to make a point stick, it should be repeated three times, each time in a different way.

Sir: Is it not likely that the classic authors pilloried by your featured "reviewers" (18 January) will still be around in a few years' time, when your pundits will have been relegated to footnotes in academic works on selfpublicists of the late 1990s? JOHN HEELAN Newbury,

TJSTEVENS

Beddington, Surrey

specific to the biology of rodent species. The same effects were not observed in primates and in 1995 an international symposium of approximately 100 scientists from government agencies, academia and industry supported this conclusion.

The "testicle shrinking" allegation probably follows recent claims that ohthalates can mimic the female hormone oestrogen. In fact, studies have recently shown that none of the commercially available phthalates produces oestrogen-like effects.

Some five generations of children around the world have played with, and chewed on, PVC toys and there is no evidence of adverse effects. PHILIP LAW British Plastics Federation London EC2

Greenwich times

Sir: As a former Greenwich resident, Dr Johnson, might have observed, the astonishing thing about the historic clocks at the Royal Observatory is less that their time-keeping is sometimes erratic (The Weasel, 16 January) but that so many of them run at all -which they do thanks to our expert staff.

Of course Greenwich is really always "on time", since the Prime Meridian set here defines what time is for most practical purposes. The RO digital master clock registers it accurately, as your amusing piece admits, and the Shepherd electric gate clock repeats it to the public (in GMT all the year round) as it has since

There are many reasons why our other clocks vary; the "grandfather" in the Octagon Room because its mechanism has been removed: this, one of the original Observatory timekeepers of 1675 by Thomas Tompion, ticks on towards the Millennium on open display nearby. Dr KRISTEN LIPPINCOTT Royal Observatory Greenwich

Seen to be done

Sir. In giving his reasons for the setting-aside by the Law Lords of the original ruling to deny General Pinochet state immunity, Lord Browne-Wilkinson has restated the fundamental principle that justice "should not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done".

You report the Lord Chancellor as having emphasised that, in future, judges must disclose links with parties involved in a court case. Judges do, normally, declare

ANDRO 2

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7.7

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links of which they are aware. I recall a case in 1978 before Mr. Justice Mustill, later himselfa distinguished law lord. He had just been appointed as a judge and it was his first case. I was appearing for the defendants, an airline company being sued for commission claimed in respect of the sale of two second-hand aircraft. My opponent had been opening his case for only a few minutes when Mr Justice Mustill interrupted to say that he thought he should mention that while at the Bar he had appeared once for a man called Martin who was an aircraft broker. At this the plaintiff, to the surprise ... of all in court, jumped to his feet and said, "Yes, it was you, my Lord."

The judge added that he remembered little about the case except that they went to the Court of Appeal and lost. However, what mattered was that my clients were given the opportunity to ask for a different judge, an opportunity denied to General Pinochet, whether or not his legal team were or should have been aware of Lord Hoffmann's connection with Amnesty. In my case we decided to continue with Mr Justice Mustill and eventually won.

Unless and until he chooses to tell us, the reason for Lord Hoffmann's non-disclosure in the Pinochet case can only be guessed at. What is surely significant, though, is that, at least so far as the House of Lords is concerned, his error was unprecedented. Regrettable and expensive though the incident has been the fact that the House of Lords ordered a rehearing must serve to restore confidence in our highest appeal

DAVID J LAMMING Sudbury, Suffolk

Sir: Your report (16 January) quoting Lord Browne-Wilkinson on the need to demonstrate that "instice should not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen and done" in the Pinochet appeal is, of course timely, as well as appropriate. We should, however, remember the reformulation by Albie Sachs, now a judge in the Constitutional Court in South Africa, who remarked, with regard to the apartheid regime of which he was a splendid opponent, that "justice should not only be seen to be done; it should be done". It is to be hoped that the outcome of the Law Lords' deliberations will show that as well. KENNETH PARKER London N6

Sir: Should any future case before the Law Lords on the tobacco industry be heard by non-smokers $-\pi_{i}$ 1. or smokers? I would hope they would both declare their interests, so both could be eliminated from 💢 🏗 the panel making a judgement.
DAVID LEVITAS London E17

A useful present

Sir: This is to sons, daughters and grandchildren who bought their mothers their own choice of Christmas present: brooches, earrings, jumpers, cardigans ... the list is endless. Have you thought that your parents would prefer a 11 11

gift voucher or, even better, cash? In six telephone calls to friends In six telephone calls to friends aged 60- and 70-plus, we all mosmed that we wished our families would give us cash. We are grateful that we have families, and for their gifts, 👾 but with the cash we could pay for a_n a_n the telephone, water, electricity and gas, or we could buy our own choice of clothes. Mrs Maureen Brophy

Now for the BBC's cost-cutting awards, repeated weekly

IT IS not generally known that 3: You certainly have. Just to set the leading figures from the five BBC radio stations meet regularly to discuss ways and means of improving broadcasting - or ways and means of pleasing John Birt. Thanks to a mole within the BBC I have secured a transcript of part of the latest meeting and think readers may find it instructive. I have bleeped out bad language wherever it is used by these radio bigwigs.

Radio 3: Well, since it's my turn to take the chair, we may as well start with the traditional ceremony of awarding a prize to the best new cost-cutting exercise. As you know, we're always looking for new ways of repeating programmes without seeming to repeat them, and Radio 4 has come up with a real cracker

scene. remember that we try as hard as possible not to do naked repeats. Of course, sometimes we have to. I can't pretend when I repeat Composer of the Week that it's anything but a repeat of Composer of the Week. Nevertheless, we all know that it's much better to dress repeats up as "Another Chance to Hear..." or "A Tribute to..." or The Best of..." or "Such and Such Revisited". As you know, last time we gave the prize to Radio 2... Radio 2: Did you? Radio 3: We certainly did. We gave it to your Thursday night feature Barry Took's Comedy Classics. Radio 2: Why did you do that? Radio 3: On two counts. First, it sounded as if Barry Took was responsible for writing these revisited classics, whereas he had nothing to do with them. Sec-

ondly, it sounded as if they weren't repeats. I think the word "classic" bids fair to become our code word for "repeat". This week we are giving the prize to a new Radio 4 item called 'Tm Sorry I Haven't a Desert Island"... Radio 2: I'm sorry I haven't a what? Radio 3: Yes, stupid title, isn't it? That's part of its charm. The more puzzling a title is, the less the punter is going to realise it's a disguised repeat. The idea is that celebrities are asked to nominate some extract from a past edition of I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue to take to a desert island. So you get someone like Stephen Fry coming on and choosing, or having chosen for them, a bit of an old programme. Which, I need hardly say, is as cheap as John Birt could devoutly wish for. Not only that, but underneath the billing in Radio



KINGTON

This week we're giving the prize to a new Radio 4 item, 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Desert Island'

Times were those words we all love to see - "Repeated from Monday". Well done, Radio 4! Radio 4: Thank

you. We at Radio 4 take a pride in spreading things as much as possible. I need hardly remind you that when we pretended to bump Melvyn Bragg off Start the Week and replace him with Jeremy Paxman, what we were really doing was pushing Bragg to Thursday and getting two Start the Weeks for the price of one. Radio 1: For the price of two, surely? Radio 4: No. Bragg and Paxman are both repeated cheaply the same day. Anyway, I am very pleased to accept the prize for "I'm Sorry I Haven't a Desert Island"... Radio 1: Hold on, hold on! Before we go dishing out prizes, may I just point out that getting celebrities to nominate old bits of I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue is not exactly a cost-cutting exercise. Is

Stephen Fry getting paid for this?

Radio 4: I'd have to check, but I

real sweetie. He'll turn out and endorse the BBC no matter what. Radio 2: Hmm... Radio 3: OK, prize awarded. Incidentally, before we leave "I'm Sorry I Haven't a Desert Island", has anyone come up with any new Desert Island twists? Radio 5: And now it's time to get back into the thick of the action, as it happens, where it happens! Radio 3: Sorry, Radio 5? Radio 5: Oh, blimey, sorry. I must have nodded off. We have a motto on Radio 5 - if nothing is happening, panic and go into overdrive! Radio 3: Thank you. As I was saying, we are always offering prizes for new twists on the Desert Island notion. Asking some nearly famous person to nominate his favourite records is cheap, cheerful and... well, cheap. We on Radio 3 have pir-

can't imagine he is. Stephen is a ated the idea on several occasions, as The Tingle Factor, as Private Passions, and so on. Radio 2: Hold on - we've now got George Melly asking people what their favourite jazz records are on Thursdays, and playing them. Does that count? Radio 3: Mmm... sort of Jazz people are always pretty boring. Radio 2: Ah, but he's not asking jazz people. He's asking real people, like Kenneth Clarke and Ian Dury! Radio 3: Excellent! Radio 1: To be strictly accurate, you should nominate the whole of Radio 1. The entire output is virtually nothing but people playing their favourite records over and over again...

> I'm afraid that's all we have time for If you'd like a cassette of the full meeting, just send me an SAE and a blank cheque.

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

*THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

We must intervene in Kosovo to secure justice for the slain

SERBIAN FORCES may have cleared the bodies from the mosque. They may have succeeded in hiding some of the evidence from international observers. But the implications of the massacre in the town of Racak cannot be cleaned up so easily, for the anger felt around the world has been both heartfelt and genuine.

Outrage is justified, but action founded on emotional impulses and nothing else - with no vision of what Nato and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) wish to achieve - will get nowhere. Worse, it could embroil our troops in an endless and thankless police action. OSCE monitors are already exposed to the threat of kidnap or even murder. No more men and women should be risked without the "endgame" that diplomats speak of so fondly but never seem to play.

One aim should be to secure justice for the slain. The murders are an affront to the embryonic system of world justice. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President, may have been able to bar Louise Arbour, the war crimes prosecutor, from Racak. He may secure the expulsion of the head of the OSCE verification mission in Kosovo. But the very fact that he thinks these people worthy of notice shows that he recognises their power and influence.

Ms Arbour has already secured a series of convictions in her court in The Hague. The Bosnian Serb war criminals, Radovan Karadic and General Ratko Mladic. are locked inside their puny enclave of Republica Serbska by fear of arrest. President Milosevic's record, hitherto spared investigation given his co-operation with the Dayton accord on Bosnia, should now be subjected to the closest scrutiny.

The more pressing dilemma is what to do in terms of military action. The history of Yugoslavia's wars since 1991 is one long demonstration that Serbia's radical nationalists will not yield unless they are staring military defeat in the face. Armed resistance freed Slovenia and Croatia; a string of Croatian victories, combined with Nato action. forced the Serbs to an agreement at Dayton. European foreign ministers, including Robin Cook, talked last October of "final warnings" and secured a ceasefire. Nato generals have now been dispatched to Belgrade to warn that military operation orders have not been rescinded since last year's crises, and can be activated at any time. At least this is an improvement on the West's craven behaviour over Bosnia, though we must hope that the threat of force is being made explicit.

However, we must have a vision of what force will achieve: It seems that nothing can salvage Kosovo's status as an integral part of Serbia. But immediate indeoption. It would involve full-scale war with Serbia, an and the chance to negotiate.



unpopular option in the West. It would destabilise the whole Balkan region, with Albanian populations in northern Greece and Macedonia encouraged to pursue separatist demands. Greece, fretting over the status of the former Yugoslavian republic of Macedonia, would never allow it.

If we do not wish to see more innocent people die, the only solution is to intervene in force to secure the separation of the combatants and to hope that negotiation is forced by the stalemate. The "observers" will have to be armed and backed with ground troops; if possible nations such as Russia, traditionally sympathetic to Serbia, and Germany should be involved. If, in the long run, the people of Kosovo wish to join their brethren in Albania, then so be it. On the other hand, a more democratic Serbia could emerge, shorn of its present leadership, allowing Kosovo to retain some relationship with its powerful neighbour. That is for those most directly alved to decide – but we can at least give them the time

Monet, money and the envy of our neighbours

THE WORST aspect of the English is their distrust of success. The worst aspect of Brussels is their desire to tax anything that is a success.

Both expressions of envy are on display in the art world at the moment. In London, the tidal wave of bookings for the Monet exhibitions has been greeted not just with joy from the public but with a whine from the aesthetes, claiming it to be a populist sham pandering to the taste for pretty pictures.

In Brussels, meanwhile, a committee is to discuss imposing 2 per cent tax on the resale of an artist's work. to go to the artist or his or her estate, on top of the rise VAT on imported art works that is to come into force this summer.

Brussels should be resisted and the British aesthetes ignored. London is at the moment the art capital of Europe, and arguably the world. It sells more art because its dealing costs are considerably lower than on the Continent (hence Paris's desire to see it loaded with more taxes). But it is also the art capital because there is a real sense of buzz and public involvement here.

The art galleries of east London are already being succeeded by a new generation setting up in south London around the Tate's contemporary art premises at Bankside. The success of the Monet show might be held discouraging if it were an excuse for the public to reject modern art in a welter of nostalgic prettiness. But it isn't. In fact there is as much enthusiasm, in relative terms, for the London Contemporary Arts Fair opening today as there is for the portraits by Ingres opening next week.

Whether it is "great" art, we can leave to posterity. What can celebrate and defend is a public that throngs to art in a city that knows how to promote it, good and bad.

I'm sorry, Mr Hague, but your British Way is another dead end

WILLIAM HAGUE has a lamentably and the United Kingdom as a whole, low public profile, so it is not surprising become apparent. But he is unwise to that he wishes to raise it by any possible means. His speech to the Centre for Policy Studies yesterday was the rhetorical equivalent of the rampage on which Michael Douglas embarked in the film Falling Down.

glas played a quiet man of regular needs to attract cosmopolitan, openhabits who loses self-control because no one will listen to him. Mr Hague's thoughts on Britishness were a similarly desperate attempt to make us listen by shouting some startling Bianca and the Notting Hill Carnival things very, very loud.

"New Labour is a threat to Britishness," warned Mr Hague. "Our Prime Minister is a threat to Britain." Things, apparently, are worse than we bught: "... a dagger at the heart of what it is to be British. If he is left to carry on unchecked, he will drive it right through that heart."

Mr Blair as the Norman Bates of British identity? Maybe not. The edge of hyperbole in Mr Hague's pronouncements sounds odd from such a reasonable man. The British Way sounds like the title of a speech Oswald Mosley once gave on a wet night in east London to a lot of disgruntled men in home-made black shirts. When the Tory leader first strayed into this soundbite in his conference speech last October, I hoped that it might be a passing fad. Sadly, it was not. He can't be blamed for picking up the theme of Britishness.

It is likely to become one of the dominant themes in political discourse, as the consequences of Scot-

pitch his thoughts on the dangers of devolution and deeper European integration in language that will appeal to crazed nationalists, little Englanders and old men muttering on the top decks of buses. The Conservative You may remember that Mr Dou- Party has enough of those already. It minded people to make its revival.

I know that this is what Mr Hague thinks he is doing. When he defines the Britain of good restaurants, Ricky and as "urban, sporty, fashion-conscious, multi-ethnic, brassy, self-confident and international", it is a timely attempt to counter the chimera of a Cool Britannia eternally governed by

But both New Labour and the Conservatives hitch their discussions of Britishness to a set of rigid assumptions. In the battle for Britishness, our every habit, tic, joke and insecurity is a weapon. By the time they have finished mauling our sensibilities and analysing what we really mean when we eat fish and chips, we may well con-clude that what it means to be British is sharing an irresistible desire to tell

our politicians to shut up about it. There is something dubious about politicians seeking to nail down national identity. Defining what we are is particularly difficult, beyond a desire to live comfortably with overlapping identities and not to force divisions where they do not need to exist. The premiss of Mr Hague's particularism, however, is that we are a



MCELVOY

He is unwise to use language that appeals to crazed nationalists, little Englanders and muttering old men

to anger, quick to make friends and loath to take the state's hand-outs. Oppositions can afford to entertain these pipe dreams of national character and to suggest that it is only the evil distortions of the Government that prevent us from being damn near perfect. But it is one piece of denial too far for the leader of the Tory Party to speak of the welfare state sapping our vitality and to suggest that all it needs is another he-man to set free the unfettered potential of the long-

easy, the Conservatives would have done it in their 18 years of office. One of Mr Hague's natural advantages is that he speaks in a plain and forthright manner a contrast with the woollier parts of New Labour's lexicon. If he concentrated his attacks on tish devolution, for Scotland, England bloody marvellous mongrel race, slow the areas where the Government is

term unemployed. If it were that

weakest - such as the unacknowl- such a terrible thought in January), edged consequences, politically and we find that in fact we rather like a economically, of precipitate EMU entry - or questioning the costeffectiveness of the New Deal job creation, he will build up a reputation

for puncturing government froth. If, on the other hand, he plays the tired old game of blaming this gov-ernment for failing to achieve things the last ones couldn't, we will ignore him some more.

The Tory leader knows that he needs a distinct narrative and one which cannot be co-opted, as so many others have, by the Government. But the British Way is the wrong path to take. New Labour will have little difficulty in responding; it will claim that the Tory vision is backward-looking.

Indeed, this Forest of Arden irrationality and the idea of a Conservative birthright are the legacies in Tory thought of the late Enoch Powell's halfinspired, half-mad musings on Englishness: "Tell us what binds us together, show us the clue that leads throughout a thousand years; whisper to us the secret of this charmed life of England that we in our time may know how to hold it fast."

It is telling that Powell was obsessed by English particularism, whereas Mr Hague seeks to extend his efforts to the less controversial territory of Britishness. But the Tory party is still trapped by its own logic on constitutional reform.

If devolution is so bad for our collective identity, why are they not committed to reversing it? And what if, despite the warning of "waking up in unable to suggest a calm and crediwhat feels like another country" (not ble alternative.

more loosely connected United Kingdom? Mr Hague will be seen to have howled in the wilderness by over-

stating his case. He has backed away from the original proposal to create an English parliament, leaving only a commitment to "find sensible political outlets for a new-found English consciousness... compatible with our open, multiethnic British identity." I'm afraid that the clumsy attempt to craft a bit of political correctness on to the demand of English nationalists in his party shows up the dangers of Mr

Hague's position. For such a fluent speaker at the dispatch box, Mr Hague's speeches are rather forced affairs, a strange mixture of erudite references to historical works and the-causes-of-theindustrial-revolution pull-yerself-upby-the bootstraps rhetoric. At such times, he sounds like an unboly hybrid of precociously opinionated undergraduate and ghost of Norman Teb-

bit (circa 1985). This is not an accurate reflection of the Tory leader's common sense and pragmatism. But he needs to loosen up. Political speeches are less about what is said than about the projection of a voice. Many of Mr Blair's speeches are slight in content, but he has the knack of sounding both reassuring and challenging. The very worst position for a Tory leader to adopt is one that sounds fearful and resentful of what is happening, yet

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I would like to be remembered as a good mother" Modonno. singer and actor

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Diplomacy without arms is like music without instruments." Frederick the Great, 18th century king of Prussia



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ALL OF this is completely preventable, if international leaders will only have the wisdom and the courage to apply the 800 of Auschwitz. Stopping genocide is a vital interest to all nations, worth the risk in blood and treasure to halt. And the combined resources of 185 nations are many times more than sufficient to stop a handful of lawless butchers from committing genocide in Kosoclose the gap between Holocaust Museum rhetoric and decisive international action. It is high time for international leaders to do the right thing. Philadelphia Inquirer

AFTER AMERICAN envoy Richard Holbrooke negotiated the Kosovo ceasefire, some Europeans actually harrumphed that America hadn't kept them informed. Kosovo vo, Bosnia or Rwanda. All that offers the Europeans the per-

MONITOR ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

US reaction to the massacre of Kosovan villagers by Serbian security forces

troops at risk in Bosnia, where we have no real national interest. As an ally the US must the alliance decides to do. is lacking is the political will to fect opportunity to take the be prepared to provide logist- Chicago Tribune

lead. All the more so since the ical and other assistance to the US already has nearly 10,000 Europeans, but it is their people who ought to go into harm's way in Kosovo - if that is what

interference.But there's no chance he will comply if Nato action, they will too. This leaves continues rattling its sabre aimlessly. Compelling Milosevic to back down just when he's warming up is likely to take far more than verbal condemnation. It's time to extract from Milosevic something more than promises. If words don't do it, extract it with hardware that he understands. USA Today

press for a deal. LA Times

NATO SHOULD demand that EUROPEAN MEMBERS of Nato

Milosevic immediately end his have made it clear that if US

little chance of resolving the Kosovo crisis any time soon. But to diminish it by diplomacy always will be worth an effort. It's a hard road to Milosevic's house, and one that should not be taken without prospects for an enduring compromise. Nato

forces decline to join offensive

should holster its guns and

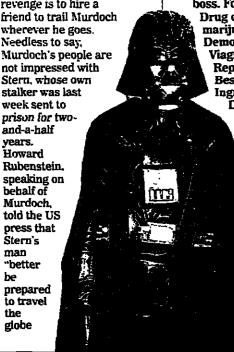
PANDORA

DID BRITISH intelligence agents use fake opinion polls to drag America into the Second World War? That is the allegation contained in Thomas E Mahl's book Desperate Deception, which tells the story of the British Security Co-ordination (BSC) unit to gain support for US involvement. Prior to Pearl Harbor, a key task of BSC agents was to manufacture bogus public opinion polls showing popular public support for peacetime conscription in the US. A reviewer of Mahl's book, quoted in The Washington Times, says that the surveys conducted "were all done under the influence of dedicated interventionists and British intelligence agents". Pandora called the Foreign Office to shed some light on the accusation and patiently awaits a reply.

TONIGHT SEES the launch of Paul Routledge's biography of Peter Mandelson at Politico's bookshop in Westminster. The book, Mandy, was reviewed in Monday's Evening Standard by Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's former spin doctor and a victim of "Notting Hillgate".

"I can scarcely believe I am writing this review ... " says Whelan, opening his piece with a mocking reference to the resignation letter of Mandelson to the Prime Minister. Further, he tells the reader: "When I first got wind of Paul's plans... I asked him not to do it." Tonight Whelan will get the chance to explain to Routledge just how much be regretted the book, as he is confirmed to be attending the Politico's launch.

THE SHOCK jock Howard Stern has Rupert Murdoch in his sights. The DJ, who makes his living from abusing anvone he can on his cult radio show, has taken offence at unauthorised photographs of him in the press, a number of which have been run by Murdoch-owned publications. Reports suggest that Stern's revenge is to hire a friend to trail Murdoch wherever he goes. Needless to say, Murdoch's people are not impressed with Stern, whose own stalker was last week sent to prison for twoand-a-half



repeatedly". He'd better like Chinese food, too.

TO BE perfectly honest, I thought we were doing a load of rubbish." That is what David Prowse, the British actor who starred as the body of Darth Vader (pictured) in the Star Wars films, recently told reporters about the original sci-fi saga. When Pandora called Prowse to find out more, the Bristol man set the record straight: "Everybody thought what we were doing was rubbish, even 20th Century Fox, until the special effects were

added on." In fact, Prowse hopes that there may be a chance to reprise his role in the later prequels of Star Wars but for now it's his health and fitness studio that occupies him.

"It's called Star Gym because of the famous people that have come here over the years," Prowse told Pandora. "People such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Albert Finney and Ted Heath: I used to train Heath you know." And the force is certainly still with Ted. that's for sure.

THE WOUNDS inflicted on Mia Farrow when Woody Allen left her for their adopted daughter Soon-Yi still run deep after eight years. Last night on US television Farrow recalled one winter's day when she came home to find Woody keeping their children occupied by throwing his hat and scarf into the fireplace.

"I said: 'What is going on?' and he said: 'Well. we'd run out of stuff to do."" After recounting the episode Mia laments: "He just didn't have any idea.

PANDORA WOULD like to pass on some information to British students thinking of working for a US congressman. A new guide lo recruitment on Capitol Hill by Gary Alpert supplies some useful tips on deciding between a Democrat or a Republican

boss. For example, for Drug of Choice it's marijuana for Democrats and Viagra for Republicans; for Best Actress, it's Ingrid Bergman for Democrats and Hillary Rodham Clinton for Republicans But a special mention must go to the category of

Favourite Pin-Up: Pamela Anderson Lee for Democrats and Margaret Thatcher for Republicans.

You have been warned.

A toast to champagne socialists

AS WELL as the more obvious splits on the British left, there is one enduring schism that has its origins in the English Civil War between Crown and Parliament. The identification of the puritans with the revolution has meant that throughout all succeeding generations of English radicals, there has always been a substantial chunk of the British left who have felt that conspicuous enjoyment of life may in itself be an indicator of closet

right-wing leanings.
The destruction of great art and the prescriptions against alcohol, music and dancing created a left-wing puritan tradition that is still alive today.

This schism is not unique to the

English left, as anyone who has seen the wonderful film Danton will confirm. Gerard Depardieu plays the great French revolutionary Danton locked into a life-and-death struggle with Robespierre for the heart and soul of the revolution. The film brilliantly captures the richness of Danton's life, with good food and wine and a series of relationships with women that we would today feel were rather politically incorrect.



KEN LIVINGSTONE

Working class people are not embarrassed by having too much money; not having enough embarrasses them

In contrast, Robespierre is a dry. wizened husk sitting in his dilapidated garret endlessly pouring out revolutionary tracts while subsisting on the occasional bowl of miserable gruel. Of course, Robespierre managed to have Danton executed shortly before he went to the gallows himself, but as he was still a virgin at his own execution, it seems to me that Danton had

much the best of their brief years on

In more recent times, the split was typified by the boring drones of the Militant Tendency – whose key demand was that MPs should "live on a worker's wage" - on the one hand, and Aneurin Bevan, who did more than anyone to improve the conditions of the working class, on the other. But Bevan had no qualms about enjoying life himself, with a fondness for expensive clothes. good food and champagne. The Tory press denounced him as a hypocrite because of his lifestyle. The truth is that working-class people are never embarrassed by having too much money - they are embar-

rassed by not having enough.

My own parents spent every Sunday afternoon of my childhood talking about how they would spend their winnings when they eventually won the pools. Certainly, I have no doubt that if I ever win the lottery while I will use a lot of it for worthy political causes - I wouldn't have the slightest qualm in spending a considerable portion of it for my own personal benefit.

One of my favourite examples of

this dichotomy on the left is between the teetotal Tony Benn and the larger-than-life American writer Gore Vidal. I recommend reading Vidal's first volume of autobiography, Pulimpsest, back-to-back with Tony Benn's Diaries 1940-63. The men have remarkable similarities - Tony comes from two generations of MPs and Gore Vidal from two generations of US senators. Both were born in 1925, with Benn growing up in the little village of Westminster politics while Vidal did the, same in

In Tony's diaries he describes his training for the Air Force in Africa at the age of 19 and recounts how their vicar led a discussion after dinner about whether sex outside marriage could ever be considered acceptable. The group concluded that it couldn't. At exactly the same time. Gore Vidal was captain of a small naval boat in the Pacific, writing in his diary: "I've realised that I can seduce any man on this boat once I put my mind to it."

Washington.

I have often mused during dull committee meetings how different politics might have been if Tony had had a touch of Gore's indulgence and

Gore had had a touch of Tony's diff gence. I say all this by way of making absolutely clear that I think that how politicians choose to lead their private lives is nobody's business but their own. It's a completely different matter, however, when we con-

sider public money. In 1984, the GLC put together a roadshow for the seaside party conferences. I knew that we should open ourselves to attacks from the Tory press if we used expensive hotels. In fact, we went so down-market that on one occasion we ended up in a B&B that was used extensively by local prostitutes, much to the embarrassment of the two well known newspaper journalists who wandered through our bar one night with their prostitutes of choice. In the following months these journalists seemed to avoid writing any strongly critical articles.

It seems to me that these principles should underpin the approach of the new mayor of Losdon, which is why I have pledged that if elected I will use public transport rather than a chauffeurdriven limousine. But I will have the odd glass of wine.

We cannot allow the Serbs to attempt a 'final solution'

IN THE Balkans, the winter snows have never yet stopped bloodshed. Some observers have said that both sides in the Kosovo conflict were waiting for the spring for a resumption of hostilities; but, as I learnt on my last trip to the region just before Christmas, the trigger for a new outbreak of war has not been the weather but the politics.

During that visit I travelled out with the British verifiers, mostly former soldiers, as they looked at the evidence of almost daily violent deaths on both sides, and as they put themselves at risk in trying to damp down tensions on the ground. Even as we stood in their small operation: room discussing the photographs of the latest slaughter, word was coming in of yet another episode in the Kosovo tragedy, with an even higher death toll. A few minutes later more news came in, this time of an attack on Serb teenagers in a bar by the Kosovo Liberation Army, which seemed to mark the beginning of a new "dirty war", targeting civilians as well as Serb

security personnel. The October agreement brokered by Richard Holbrooke had completely run out of steam well before Christmas, the unarmed verifiers were having their authority eroded daily, and the time that the deal bought for us to find a political solution in Kosovo has been wasted not least by delays in getting the verifiers out into the field, and because of the Albanian community's inability to speak with one voice. That agreement, for all its faults, created a political dynamic strong enough to replace the dynamic of force for a time and, crucially, it opened up the opportunity for the international community to become involved. And that involvement, in the form of OSCE (Organisation



PADDY ASHDOWN

Now we must think the unthinkable and consider the least worst option of sending the troops in

Europe) verifiers, has made a measurable difference in certain specific situations on the ground, but has proved inadequate when violence and reprisals begin to escalate again. It is certainly no substitute for a political solution.

The extraction force over the border in Macedonia is a useful political symbol but would be of no real military use as a force to pull out the verifiers, and so the monitors are still all we have. But with violence escalating again, they are clearly an inadequate barrier between the warring sides; they are unprotected and their authority has been undermined by Belgrade and by the Serb and the KLA comman-

ders in the field. Now we can see the province sliding back into war. It has been swift but not unexpected, particularly not to those of us who had been arguing for earlier intervention since the middle of last year. Casualties have been mounting on both sides, and this week's atrocity in Racak represents a fundamental challenge to for Security and Co-operation in the West's policy.

We have one last chance to persuade both sides but, most urgently, President Milosevic. to accept the authority of the international community and return to compliance with the terms of the ceasefire - including full co-operation with the International War Crimes Tribunai investigators as specified in UN Resolution 1199, which governs the ceasefire.

But if these last-ditch efforts fail - and I am pessimistic - we must consider our options, which have been narrowing with every month that passes. If we do tail then Nato and the OSCE will be faced the verifiers out or to send the troops in.

Neither decision will be easy. On the face of it, the obvious decision would be to pull the verifiers out. But I do not believe that we in the West could allow ourselves to stand aside and be spectators in the carnage that would ensue. I have no doubt that Milosevic and the increasingly powerful right-wing nationalists who dominate politics in Belgrade would see withdrawal of the verifiers as a signal of a failure of the international community's will, a green light for a full-scale campaign against the Albanian population in Kosovo.

The region would be flooded with the main battle units of the Yugoslav army - the fifth most powerful army in Europe - and we would see the Serbs attempt a "final solution" to their Kosovo question. The bloodshed would be horrific, both for the Kosovar Albanians and for the minority Kosovar Serbs, and would almost inevitably ignite the wider Balkan conflict in Macedonia, Albania and the southern Balkans that we have all feared since the beginning of last year.

It is clearly inconceivable that we should stand back and allow this to



Albanian villagers flee after the carnage at Racak

use of excessive force and heavy weapons against defenceless Albanian villages, and to force Milosevic to return to compliance if Serbia uses heavy weapons against Albanian civilians in contravention of the Geneva Convention. But on their own, air strikes offer us only a way of dealing with Milosevic's aggression, not a way of dealing with the KLA or with the steady trickle of weapons and ill-trained young men and women who attack from across the Albanian border - attacks probably sponsored by money from the Albanian diaspora and which frequently send the young volunteers to their deaths. So now we must

troops in on the ground. This is profoundly undesirable, it is no small step, and has long-term implications. It puts into question the status of Kosovo as a province of Serbia and it would mean an occupation of the sovereign territory of the Serbian state by Nato forces. It stand aside.

think the unthinkable, and consider

the least worst option of putting

happen. Air strikes may be used to would be a real challenge to Euprevent further instances of the rope's as yet unproven ability to handle a co-ordinated peace-keeping mission. But the actions of the Serbs in perpetrating the atrocities in Racak and elsewhere, and in flouting the decisions of the international community, have diminished or removed their moral authority to gov-ern Kosovo on the basis of 5 per cent of Kosovo's population.

The present policy has one last - > chance - and if it works we must urgently reinvest the political process with the momentum it needs - but if it fails we must be prepared for the worst and for the only option we have left. We have, once again, as in Bosnia, done too little too late, and we have left ourselves no good options and no other choice.

I asked one of the verifiers whom I met whether he could detect a will for peace in Kosovo. He replied: "I can't see a will for peace. But I can see a will not to return to war." That: may be all we have to go on in our hopes to build a future for the region, but we cannot and must not...

*THE INDEPENDENT

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solid fuel appliance are not maintained regularly or flues become blocked Carbon Monoxide can build up to a dangerous, perhaps even deadly level. Carbon Monoxide is highly poisonous gas. it is invisible with no odour or taste, this being the reason that it is frequently refered to as the silent killer, In the home it is not mally the product of incomplete combustion mostly originating from gas, oil or LPG fires, boilers. ducted air heating

10x3000 Derocour scaters, cookers, solid fuel fires and mobile heaters. You can't see, smell or taste

it but concentrated in the air it is capable of serious poisoning, in some cases futal to both humans and domestic pets. Simply called the LIFESAVER this earbon monoxide detector will warn you audibly if carbon monoxide reaches dangerous levels. Supplied with a 9 volt hancry the unit has the advantage of being portable but can be wall or ceiling mounted. Features include: test/resct button, multi-stage warning system. permanent sensor. 85db alarm, low battery indicator and six year warranty At a cost of just £29.95 including postage and packing and certified to UL2034 funders riters laboratories) your detector will include a comprehensive manual. Note - Curbon Monoxide detectors are not an alternative to regular servicing by

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Don't be scared of modified food

It employs some 20 million people. Agricultural products are our biggest export. The last few years have seen a major shift in American agricultural policy - the great-

est change since the Thirties - due to the globalisation of agricultural markets. American farmers have

seen their income suffer as a result of the Russian and Asian financial crises, the abundance of global supply, and the resulting drop in commodity prices. This situation has been exacerbated by recent drought conditions in the United

To respond to these hardships, the US government is seeking ways to strengthen the social safety net for American farmers, while preserving the market freedoms gained from reduced government

intervention. France faces a similar challenge: how to encourage dynamism in the agricultural sector and reduce government subsidies, while at the same time providing a safety net for farmers whose livelihood is often threatened by conditions estimated 65 million acres

AGRICULTURE IS at the heart of the US economy. that are beyond their control. The proper role of biotechnology in agriculture is a particularly delicate issue.

In the United States, we consider the results of biotechnology used in farming to be extremely promising. Insect-resistant plants and

drought-resistant corn are two such examples. In each case, biotechnology has increased output. It has also lowered production costs and reduced the use of pesticides and water; bringing environmental and health benefits to both farmers and consumers.

If we can use biotechnology to increase food stocks and permit crops to grow in harsh climates, we may begin to eliminate the scourge of famine and hunger in the world.

Given this positive point of view, the use of biotechnology in agriculture has expanded rapidly in the US. More than 30 transgenic crops have been approved for sale, including such staples as soybeans, corn, potatoes and canola oil [from oil-seed rape]. Three years ago, not a single genetically engineered crop was planted for commercial use. This year, an



PODIUM

FELIX ROHATYN From a speech by the American ambassador in Paris to the

Fédération du Crédit Agricole, Paris

world-wide were planted with transgenic seeds, including about a quarter of next year's US corn and one-third of the soybean crops. Experts predict that within 10 years an estimated 95 per cent of America's plant-derived foods will be genetically engineered.

Research is under way on the next generation of foods enhanced by biotechnology that could have real health benefits: meat without

wheat with more protein, to name but a few.

The safety of biotechnology is widely discussed in the European press. Confidence in biotechnology in the United States is due largely to our confidence in the government agencies responsible for food safety. No genetically modified organisms (GMOs) may be used in the United States without meeting strict government requirements. In fact, three federal agencies must review and approve the use of GMOs in the United States. Scientists for regulatory agencies in the European Union, Canada, Japan and Australia, plus the World Health Organisation, have also studied any possible risks - and have determined

market today are safe for human health. Another reason why American consumers have generally accepted these products is that they aren't really anything new. All plant breeding involves the genetic manipulation of plants. Virtually all of the agricultural products sold and consumed have been

altered by this kind of cross-

that the GMOs that are on the

breeding. Genetically modified foods are as safe as the original! plants from which the genes were taken. Every country has the right and the responsibility to establish a policy of food

labelling. Since May 1998, the European Union has required the labelling of GMO products as such. However for the reasons I have just outlined, the United States has taken a different position. We believe, for example, that a type of corn that has been genetically modified to resist drought is no different from a hybrid corn developed to give higher yields, and therefore requires no special label. The difference of opinion on these issues may result from historical and cultural factors, but one thing is clear: American, French and European consumers must have confidence in what they consume, and producers must be responsible for what they

ALLUSIO

produce. As we seek to meet this common goal, we should open channels of communication, share our scientific findings and isolate our decisions from politics and emotion.

The sinking of our estates



ONESDAY REVIEW

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DEBORAH ORR

🗦 Cats, dogs, birds and frogs were subjected to ritual cruelty, preferably before screaming toddlers

A COUPLE of years ago, my brother and I indulged in an odd and nostalgic adventure. We found a way into the derelict "maisonette" blocks that our family had moved to when I was three (and that he'd been born and bred in) and paid a visit to the flat in which we'd spent most of our childhood.

Our building, and the others around it, were empty, awaiting remodelling and recladding. Muirhouse, Motherwell, is just one of the thousands of "schemes" - as council housing estates are called in Scotland - that are being regenerated in a bid to rid them of the myriad social blights that have logged them almost from the moment they became occupied.

I stood looking out of the window with its view of the whole of the Clyde valley and found that I could remember the day we'd moved in, rehoused when my parents' tenement flat was bought by the council under a compulsory purchase order. This new place was light and airy, absolutely the definition of modern. We now had our own bathroom instead of a shared one. There was no coal fire, but something exotic called under-floor heating.

Everything sparkled with whiteness and cleanliness. It was all brand, spanking new - maisonettes d towers clustered together on the brow of a hill. We could see for miles. But we couldn't see what the future held. We could never have guessed how quickly this little Utonia, and thousands like it, would become that dread thing, a sink estate. My brother and I still can't believe that such a terrible dehumanisation had happened around us as we played out our childhood, safe in the flat with the beautiful view

In a study published this week by the Oxford Psychologists Press there is more bad news for council tenants. The study, which examined the intelligence and achievements of 2,000 people, found that highly intelligent people who live in council housing get lower pay, fewer holidays and less promotion than owner-occupiers of similar intelligence. They are also less likely to maintenance full-time education. The athors Dr Mark Cook, a psychology lacturer at the University of Wales and Robert McHenry, an occupa-



The Muirhouse estate: 'I still can't believe that such a terrible dehumanisation happened around us as I played out my childhood'

Mark Runnacles/SDR

tional psychologist, found that "prejudices are a valid factor. Intelligent people who live in public housing seem to be caught up in some trap under-achievement. They're

being judged by where they live." That academia has taken so long to find concrete statistics to support such a self-evident truth makes it more amazing that my mother sussed all this out by the beginning of the Seventies. After we'd lived only a couple of years in our new scheme, the cracks were beginning to show. It wasn't so much in the buildings themselves, but in the kind of community that was coalescing around them.

All the new trees that had be planted around the scheme had been trampled down by marauding children. When the trees were gone they started on animals. Cats, dogs, birds and frogs were subjected to ritual cruelty, preferably in front of a screaming audience of toddlers. Chip-pans were always being launched from balconies in balls of fire. Tenants, too, would launch themselves from windows occasionally, and in Glencairn Tower. the huge block in town, it seemed

that someone leapt from the building every week. My mum was certain that this

family, for one, had to get out of this scheme or else it would ruin us. There were plenty of other people who agreed with her. Over the years of searching for a new home, my mother met hundreds of people who were unhappy with their council accommodation and keen to tackle the problems they saw, if only the council would help them make an investment in the community. But the council wouldn't. Instead, its rules became Draconian and its involvement became minimal.

Early on, a few people had been their doctors about their nerves. But so many tenants had cottoned on to this that the strategy quickly stopped working. We were told that we didn't have enough "points" and that unless we could get a "swap" we had to stay until my brother and I were deemed too old to share a room together.

But already the scheme had a bad reputation and the only people who wanted a swap were those worse off than us. We saw places

overrun with mice, flats in corridors that smelled of urine, flats with excrement smeared on the walls. And there was worse to come. When we finally got our points, we would be offered three alternative homes. We had to accept the third one, no matter what.

At that point my mother really became a warrior. There were still some good council houses around. The thing to do was to find them before someone on the council out in a word for their auntie - which happened, blatantly, all the time. Every evening she would pound the streets looking for empty houses, or places where there were signs that were moving out. And every day, she'd go down to the housing office with a list of places that seemed to her to be empty. Eventually they gave in, and we got a new house with three bedrooms and a back and front garden. That house, like most of the others in that estate, is owner/ occupied now and my mother's strategy for housing her family decently is no longer a real-

istic prospect for anyone. Meanwhile Muirhouse is being "regenerated", as are about 4,000

other sink estates in Britain. Today. it looks staggeringly ugly. While the original towers really did have a clean, bright, modernist beauty and could have been kept that way with dedicated maintenance and regular licks of paint - they have now been clad alternately in pink and turquoise versions of something cheap and stripy. The maisonettes have been turned into hybrid terraced houses, but the gardens are tiny and invite unwelcome visitors from the public space in which they are marooned. Other blocks still stand empty and derelict, for the regeneration work is years behind schedule and by the time the start again. The people who are trying again to colonise this blighted hill can be in no doubt as to why their address is a stigma, for the

Across Britain, the people of just 17 council estates like this one will see the places they have tried - and failed - to live well in, razed to the ground. The rest will be regenerated by the same organisations that built them to let them rot in the first place. All the Social Exclusion Units

evidence is all around them still.

in the world can't make councils good at running housing initiatives. And they can't stop the kind of social exclusion that starts with a glance at the address on the top of your job application form.

The truth is that councils that weren't any good at providing housing in the first place have been left with just a rump of particularly difficult housing to service. The councils responsible for building failed estates should not be responsible for rebuilding them. Public housing must be put into the hands of dedicated organisations. Housing associations have again and again proved themselves to be more flexnaginative and sympathetic towards the community than councils seem able to be. These are the organisations that should be planning a future for public housing. Council housing is discredited, its tenants are discriminated against, and the same mistakes that we saw 30 years ago are being repeated. Let's start again. There are plenty of intelligent council tenants who would be only too happy to let housing associations know what they really need.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MIKE WILLIS



The chairman of the ProLife Alliance rejects Lynn Eaton's call for accessible contraception

THE REDUCTION in teenage pregnancies is once again top of the agenda in the battle for the health of the nation. The Government has set ambitious targets and health apparatchiks have stormed into action.

Just before Christmas, Boots was wheeled into the vanguard of the teenagepregnancy-reduction strategy. A teenage drop-in centre was established at a branch in Glasgow. Angry parents picketed the store and a national boycott is in place.

This has done little to deter the Health Trust of Glasgow which now wants to extend the Boots drop-in concept into schools. Their strategy appears to be about providing accessible clinics where sexually active youngsters can obtain contraceptives - which, they believe, will tackle the problem of unwanted teenage pregnancies.

The last 30 years have taught us that this is a flawed strategy: contraceptives fail and the more we encourage teenagers to indulge in "safe sex", the more unwanted pregnancies will result

The ProLife Alliance has been arguing for a complete reversal of sex education policies. Our starting-point is similar to the development of anti-smoking policies for the young. Under-age sex, like smoking, goes on, but it is bad for your health and in the long term it is better for the teenager if this behaviour is changed.

transmitted disease among the young is at record levels. Abstinence programmes in the US have achieved startling results in adapting teenage lifestyles. In Michigan, teenage pregnancy rates have been reduced by 25 per cent. Saying "no" is a strategy well worth developing – perhaps it is just too simple for the so-called health professionals.

Drawing repellent conclusions

THOMAS HENRY Huxley rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most eminent of Victorian bioogists, but along the way he lost his faith to scientific reason. When his son died aged three, he was denied the traditional comforts of religion. In the depth of his grief he wrote to his friend Charles Kingsley: "I could have fan-cied a devil scoffing at me... and asking what profit it was to have stripped myself of the hopes and consolations the mass of mankind? To which my only reply was and is: 'Oh devil! Truth is much better than profit."

There is something noble about Huxley's commitment to his scientific beliefs, but his story also shows how the rise of science has made the world a crueller place. Instead of a



Wednesday Poem

ALLUSION TO THE DEATH OF COLONEL

FRANCISCO BORGES (1833-1874)

BY JORGE LUIS BORGES, TRANSLATED BY NORMAN THOMAS DI GIOVANNI

I leave him on his horse on that evening

In which he rode across the plain to meet

His death, and of all the hours of his fate

May this one, though bitter, go on living.

White horse, white poncho pick a studied way

Over the flat terrain. Ahead, death lurks

Patiently in the barrels of the guns.

Colonel Borges sadly crosses the plain.

What closed on him, the Remingtons' crackle,

What his eye took in, endless grazing land.

Are what he saw and heard his whole life long.

Here was his home - in the thick of battle.

In his epic world, riding on his horse,

I leave him almost untouched by my verse.

This poem comes from the 'Selected Poems' of

publishes Borges's 'Collected Fictions' this week.

Jorge Luis Borges (Penguin, £11); The Penguin Press

WEDNESDAY BOOK

BRAVE NEW WORLDS BY BRIAN APPLEYARD, HARPERCOLLINS, £16.99

a benevolent God, we now have a random universe in which natural selection blindly arranges matter into strange animal shapes.

Brian Appleyard has been urging for some years that we should not just stand by and let science destroy our values. In his earlier book, Understanding the Present, he argues that the scientific world view subverts religion and culture, yet offers nothing heaven and earth created for man by in its place. This new volume contin-

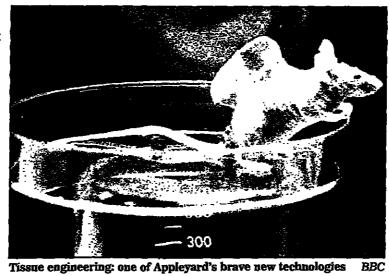
ues the message, with an emphasis on recent advances in genetic science. In Appleyard's view, the unravelling of the DNA code is "the most important discovery in human history", which "will

He begins with a standard run-

leave nothing unchanged".

through of the brave new technologies on the borizon, including genetic scanning, selective abortion, gene therapy and cloned body parts. Yet Appleyard does little to help us judge which prospects are likely to graduate from fantasy to fact, since he makes no attempt to explain the science of DNA. This is disappointing from a journalist who made his name by distilling complex subjects for a mass audience, and it compares badly with a recent Penguin by Philip Kitcher. The Lives to Come, which covers the same ground as Appleyard, yet engages seriously with the issues that depend on scientific understanding.

Much of Appleyard's agitation about the new genetics seems misplaced. He devotes a great deal of attention to the history of eugenic thinking, from the Spanish Inquisition to research on IQ differences between races. He is, of course, right that eugenic ideas are destructive of civilised values, as Nazism proved, but the trouble is that eugenics owes nothing to the discovery of DNA. Even the most modern investigations into genetic IQ depend on statistical techniques that have been around since the beginning of this century, and are independent of assumptions about the molecular basis of inheritance. Appleyard gets increasingly en-



of all amorality. On IQ, for example, most sane commentators would agree that, while inheritance does make a difference, many other factors do too. But Appleyard will have none of this. As he sees it, once we start down the path of genetic science, we must conclude that everything important is genetic. all inequalities are justified, and the human bloodstock is in danger of degeneration. At one point, Appleyard suddenly seems to notice that he is in danger of ending up on the wrong side, and inserts a paragraph explaining that he does not necessarily endorse these ideas, but that "there is a logic which has to be followed through if we are ever to understand what genetics is all about". He adds, "Precisely what I personally think about all this will become clear later."

Unfortunately it doesn't Appleyard suggests at the end that the solution is to deny the truth of scientific ideas. But it is surely too late for that. As Huxley's sad story shows, we cannot put

tangled in his eagerness to demon- the cat of scientific truth back into the strate that genetic science is the root bag of ignorance. Of course, not all scientific claims are proven, and we should do well to treat many revelations with a pinch of salt. But there is enough in science, including genetic science, that cannot be denied and must be come to terms with if we are to get our values straight.

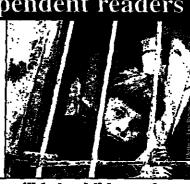
What we need are writers who can explain the relevant science to the public, and allow us to shape our values intelligently to the new information. Brian Appleyard's previous work has shown that he is as good at this as anybody. But in this book he is in danger of giving the game to the enemy. In his impatience to damn science, he ends up drawing repellent conclusions from inescapable scientific truths. Just as well that his arguments don't hold water given that science will not go away.

DAVID PAPINEAU

The reviewer is professor of the philosophy of science at King's College, London

Kosova children appeal to Independent readers

face cold, hunger and disease as winter deep shock, having vitnessed their parents and relatives killed in she awful atrocitles from which they fled. Albania, the poorest ntry in Europe, has few resources to suppors the mussive influx of refugees.



Your action will help children who have lost everything The European Children's Trust needs your swift

esponse to set up an emergency centre in Shkoder, northern Albania, to help 2500 refugees. Our centre will provide basic necessities and schooling to give security to the confused and frightened refugee children living in Shkoder. These are children and families whose homes have

Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a

£30 could buy emergency medicine and food supplements for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children this winter. Call

0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below I enclose D£30 Dmy choice £______ to save Kosovar

children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust please), Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:				
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Please return to: Timys Barron, (17/A), Roseva Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE8359, 644 Queen Street, Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW - your gift will give hope

George Rylands

THE UNION of the theatrical with the academic came early in the life of George Rylands, known to all who met him as "Dadie" (he could not pronounce "baby" when tiny). Rylands went to King's College, Cambridge from Eton on a scholarship to read Classics in 1921 - in January so that he could act Electra in J.T. Sheppard's production in Greek of The Oresteia.

This practical experience of communicating the essence of a play as clearly as possible to audiences only partially able to follow the words was doubtless the key to the qualities for which Rylands's later productions of Shakespeare became famous: clarity of delivery, musicality of vocal orchestration, striking stage pictures, and an overall impression of unimpeded transparency.

But first came the acting. During the Twenties, when the Vice-Chancellor still prohibited women from appearing on the Cambridge stage. Rylands took some of the leading female roles in Elizabethan drama, including the Duchess of Malfi. He thus acquired an intimate feeling for the appropriate style of acting when he later came to direct his great friend Peggy Ashcroft in the same part. He was also a ruthlessly dashing Diomedes in the famous Marlowe Society production of 1922 which restored Troilus and Cressida to currency on the stage.

It was indeed the university's Marlowe Dramatic Society which was to be the main channel of his influence on English theatre. Through that channel flowed the principles of impersonality, balance, and the delivery of verse with neither the huff-and-puff of old-style rhetoric nor the clipped twittering of drawingroom comedy which were then the prevailing alternatives.

These principles were first mooted by Lytton Strachey in reviews of earlier Marlowe productions and developed by Rylands in discussion with Strachey and other members of the Bloomsbury Group, especially Virginia Woolf.

In her diaries Rylands makes a vivid and attractive appearance in his bright blue suit - vain, but kind. energetic and intelligent; she called him a cornflower. It was with Rylands that she shared her anxieties over the writing of The Waves, and it is a luncheon he gave her in 70 was seen in Rylands's revival of King's that she describes in A Room T.S. Eliot's The Family Reunion. of One's Own (1929). And since it was Strachey who wrote the introduction to Kylands's reliowship dissertation. Words and Poetry, which he had prepared while working for the Woolfs at the Hogarth Press (which they published in 1928), it is clearly through Rylands that the Bloomsberries enter English theatre.

into the rooms in King's where he entertained, rehearsed and lived for the next 70 years, and whose doors and fireplaces were painted by Dora Carrington. Earlier he had also moved from Classics to English. The English Faculty was then in its heroic phase of working out first principles. Perhaps because his work was mainly in the ephemeral medium of theatre it is insufficiently recognised that Rylands participated in that heroic endeavour. sharing its rigour, intent interest in language, and urgency in the com-

mon pursuit of true judgment. With characteristic boldness, in 1929 he chose King Lear for his debut as director for the Marlowe, casting the undergraduate Michael Redgrave as Edgar. John Lehmann remembered "the constriction of the heart" that assailed him at the climax of the play. Equally bold was Rylands's decision to take advantage of the lifting of the ban on women actresses by staging Antony and Cleopatra in 1933. The daring of Geoffrey Wright's costume designs scandalised the Master of Corpus.

Not that Rylands's theatrical ac-

Cambridge Arts Theatre. Indeed, it was a multi-media entertainment Rylands devised for Keynes, involving photography by Cecil Beaton, choreography by Frederick Ashton, music by Constant Lambert, and acting by Rylands himself that inspired Keynes with the idea of a theatre devoted to all the performing arts. After Keynes's death in 1946. Rylands took over as Chairman of the Trustees, steering

hard work. Rylands was meticulous

in preparing lighting plots and

worked closely with his designers

and stage managers. This attention

to detail and planning made him an invaluable ally for his close friend

Maynard Keynes as he matured

his plans for the building of the

through the Fifties and Sixties. Here the young Peter Hall saw all the Marlowe productions and resolved to emulate them. Here John Barton, joining Rylands at King's, also began to direct, culminating in his outstanding two parts of Henry IV with Ian McKellen, Derek Jacobi, Clive Swift and Eleanor Bron in 1960. From here Barton left to join Hall when he took over the tivities were limited to the Marlowe,

the theatre from the late Forties

It was with Rylands that Virginia Woolf shared her anxieties over the writing of The Waves, and it is a luncheon he gave her in King's that she describes in A Room of One's Own

served on nearly every committee, acted as Junior Bursar, and was offered the position of Provost, which he refused. At the Amateur Dramatic Club he acted in light cornedy and occasionally directed the Footlights as well as the Greek play. Here he was aided and abetted by his contemporary and colleague at King's, the talented comedian Donald Beves. The two of them ran a double act, putting

week, parodying it the next. The pay-off from this sprezzatuwhich, because it successfully released the comedy, the author much

on a Greek or Jacobean tragedy one

preferred to the London premiere. Gielgud used for his Whether participating in a comedy or a tragedy, generations of students testified to the feeling of Behind the scenes of these tri-

or indeed to the theatre. In King's he Shakespeare Memorial Theatre the same year.

From Rylands's last production for the Marlowe in 1960, Cymbeline, Trevor Nunn graduated from acting to direct the Marlowe himself, later inheriting Hall's mantle at the RSC. And that is the history of Shakespearean production in England for a good 20 years.

Apart from this indirect but potent influence, Rylands's practical grasp enabled him to contribute directly to the professional stage. Outstand-Theatre Royal, Haymarket in 1944. It was Rylands's Shakespeare anthology, The Ages of Man (1939), that solo performances.

tic was the mixing of top profes-"happy triumph" that buoyed every-sionals, such as Irene Worth, with one up during a Rylands production. undergraduate actors in the recordings of the complete works of Shake-

At this date, 1928, Rylands moved umphs there was of course much speare for the British Council between 1957 and 1964. The project was the first of its kind, was hailed by critics as the most significant publication of Shakespeare since the First Folio, and is still current. The British Council also sent a Marlowe Society double-bill of The White Devil, with Noël Annan as an imposing Pope, and Measure for Measure, with Rylands in his best part, Angelo, to Berlin in the airlift of 1948.

Rylands lived long enough to see public recognition of his achievements, poor compensation though it was for surviving so many friends. an honorary degree from his own university, and in 1987 a Companionship of Honour. The RSC celebrated his 90th birthday with a programme at the Swan. And in 1996 there was a great gathering of stars at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket to launch an appeal for a Rylands Fellowship, intended to repay in some measure the singular generosity of a man who had literally given away all of the fortune he inherited from an uncle – to his college, to the Arts Theatre, to the Fitzwilliam Museum, to numerous individuals whose careers he helped launch with timely assistance unencumbered by advice.

By the time of the Haymarket celebration Dadie Rylands was too frail to attend, but he sent a short film instead. With entirely characteristic impishness the film consisted of an electrifying recital of a speech from, God forbid, the Scottish play: Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow". There was no one on stage that night, nor will there ever be, who could follow that.

In the summer term of 1921 Cambridge University was still rejoicing in the Peace that followed the unspeakable horror of the First World War, writes Frances Partridge. Some had a new preoccupation - their final examinations.

The Provost of King's College, J.T. Sheppard had been confiding in several surprised friends that he had fallen in love with a very pretty Scottish Newnhamite and had planned a little lunch party to introduce her to his brilliant new student. Dadie Rylands. To complete the party he was asking me, as the girl's 'best ingly there was his direction of John friend" and the sister of one of his Gielgud's best Hamlet at the own most prominent actors from the

Marlowe Society: This was the occasion of my first meeting with Dadie. I can't say the two departing girls and the new boy were quite at ease with each other, but I well remember Dadie's air of condescension towards us two girls, and the dazzling blonde good looks of the two other students - Dot (Sheppard's inamorata) and Dadie

(blue-eved both, and Dadie pinkshirted to match his complexion.) The Provost had enough vitality for us all.

It was some time before Dadie and I met again, both of us living in Bloomsbury by them. He told me once that the part of his output that he was proudest of was putting productions of all Shakespeares plays on radio. He nearly always took a major part him self, "and one thing I always insist on." he added. "is that they gave full value to the poetry and that each character understood what every word he was saying meant".

Several years passed before I began to meet Dadie again, at Long Crichel a house communally owned in Dorset by writers, artists and dogs, and would stride off over the

fire. There was teasing sometimes, for Dadie loved to tease and would accompany it with a pussy-cat smile (to use his own phrase).

I remember a discussion about class and culture, when someone was boasting of always saying "Good Morning" to the postman. "Did you really?" teased Dadie with a wide grin. "Did you say 'How are you today?' to the dear fellow. How very obliging!" But such quips as these were not resented nor did they go very deep. All the four hosts of Long Crichel loved Dadie and appreciated the fun he always set

going on his visits. But the most delightful phase of my relations with Dadie began when travelled back as they had come. painters. Dadie loved walking the he, Eardley and I decided to try and take what we called "our Spring hollow downs followed by two or three. iday" every year. We kept this up for Shakespeare was often the theme of some time, going to such places as conversation but of course much Holland, Wales, northern Spain, the else was talked about outdoors, in Isle of Skye and Alderney, each for deckchairs on the lawn, or round the about a week. We lived in simple

rooms, walked a lot, and the other two helped me look for wild flowers. In northern Italy we took to sight.

seeing and had enormous fun.

Later still Dadie and I flew to Greece to stay with the Leigh Fermors. The best part of a wonderful stay was the evenings when Dadie read aloud to us. We chose the poets, he the poems and his voice. rose and rang in a glorious haritone.

Then, alas, came illness: But Dadie was dauntless. He came in a wheelchair, which in turn came on a train and a taxi, with his "carer" who called him alternately "Doctor" Rylands" and "Darling". They came to lunch in my London flat and then 🧳

George Humphrey Wolferstan Rylands, English scholar and theatre director, born Tocklington, Gloucestershire 23 October 1902 CBE 1961; CH 1987; died Combridge 16 January 1999.





Brian Stonehouse

BRIAN STONEHOUSE had an unusual set of careers: he was a Vogue fashion artist, a wartime secret agent, and a professional painter; he also survived several Nazi concentration camps. Though born in the West Country,

he was largely brought up at Wimereux, near Boulogne, where his parents found it convenient to live, and was thus bilingual in French and English. When he was 12, the family moved to Stowmarket in Suffolk. From Ipswich Art School, he was lucky enough to secure a job at Vogue, drawing strictly life-like illustrations, mainly of ladies' underwear. In May 1939, seeing that another great war was likely, he enlisted as a private soldier in a territorial medium battery at Ipswich and was posted to a field battery in Scotland a few weeks later.

His French came in useful in the spring of 1940, translating for the Chasseurs Alpins who had survived the Narvik expedition and were on their way back to France. He spent the next winter in the Orkneys and was sent in spring 1941 to an officer cadet training unit at Alton Towers.

picked him up - Sir John Gielgud's brother Lewis interviewed him, and found him eminently suitable - and he went through SOE's paramilitary training schools in Surrey and in the Western Highlands before doing his parachute training at Ringway, near Manchester. He then had three months' intensive training as a wireless operator at Thame Park, near Oxford; and parachuted into France on the last day of June 1942.

He landed near Loches with the two Newton brothers, circus acrobats who were to jump into a radio station in central France and blow it up; they parted from him on ar-riving. He hung about in the woods for several days near his dropping zone till he had rescued his wireless/ transmitter (W/T) set, which had been caught in a tree. He then made contact with difficulty with Philippe de Vomecourt, one of the three Lorrainer barons who were the virtual founders of SOE's independent French section in France; and was packed off to provide W/T services from Lyons.

eral sites (some of them rather grand) round Lyons for several of SOE's operators. A common fate of successful wireless operators was his: direction finders detected him during a transmission that went on too long, and on 24 October he was arrested at the Château Hurlevent in the Isère - by the French, not the German, police, though some German bystanders were present in plain clothes.

He told the French he was a British officer, expecting their sympathy: instead, they put him in prison and when, a few weeks later, the Germans occupied Vichy's nominally "free" zone of France, Stonehouse was handed over to them. They, in turn, put him in Fresnes prison (near the present site of Orly airport on the south side of Paris), and left him in solitary for 10 months: an experience that would unhinge many of us.

The loneliness was enlivened by repeated interrogations, never agreeable; they told him on Christmas Eve 1942 that he was to be shot From mid-July until late October, as a spy. Instead, he was packed off

The Special Operations Executive he was busy transmitting from sev- to Germany, on the same train as Albert Guerisse, GC, the great escape line organiser, and Guérisse's Australian W/T operator, Tom Groome; his tour of concentration camps then began.

He was in Saarbrucken for a few weeks, then at Mauthausen; with a few more weeks on forced labour in a Luftwaffe factory in a Vienna suburb, and then back to the infamous Mauthausen quarry. He was moved across to Natzweiler concentration camp in Alsace, and held under extra strong guard. He caught sight there of four young women - with some of whom he had trained - being

marched off to be popped in the oven. When France fell to the Allies, the prisoners in Natzweiler were crammed into trains for Dachau: here he saw out the war, being liberated by the US Army's Rainbow Division on 29 April 1945.

He was a witness at several war crimes trials, including the main Dachau trial, before he was demobilised in mid-1946. Vogue then gave him back his job and from October 1946 to the spring of 1979 he worked in Washington and New York, mainly for Vogue, but also for Harper's Bazoar, Elizabeth Arden and others. His task was to draw models wearing the latest designs. He enjoyed it and enjoyed the girls' company but it gradually became clear to him that the task could be better carried out

by photographers than by artists. He returned to England to paint more seriously portraits, land-scapes, still lifes. He had a flat in London and a small place in Suffolk and became well-known to a discriminating field. His portrait of the Queen Mother dominates the bar of the Special Forces Club of which he was a pillar, and he had just finished a second portrait of her which was unveiled last month at the King Edward VII Hospital as a thank offering for their care of her hip. On Remembrance Sunday, it was her who laid the Special Forces Club wreath at the SOE memorial in Westminster Abbey Cloisters.

M. R. D. F00

Brian Julian Warry-Stonehouse, soldier and artist born Torquay Devon 29 August 1918, MBE 1945, died London circa 2 December 1998.

Suzanne Hywel

AS A dancer Suzanne Hywel had a let in 1962, straight from the Royal blazing dramatic presence that Ballet School. The company's dicontradicted her cool blondeness. As a choreographer, her début in her first roles, as a Mod in his Bea-1968 with Western Theatre Ballet showed a promise that was confirmed by subsequent works, though her career then slipped a few notches downwards for the settled but less exposed pursuit of

choreographing for opera. In her dancing and early choretwo pioneering groups - Western Theatre Ballet and Northern Dance Theatre - which made a speciality of touring contemporary quality ballets and were to evolve into the bigger mainstream Scottish Ballet and

Northern Ballet Theatre. She joined Western Theatre Bal-

rector Peter Darrell gave her one of tles ballet Mods and Rockers (1963). His assistant Laverne Meyer gave her a bigger challenge by casting her as the daughter in his new ballet Reconciliations (1963): she produced a vividly frayed intensity in her portrayal of this fraught young girl.

In Houseporty (1964), Darrell's ography Hywel was at the centre of experimental television "play for dancers", she was wonderfully real as the innocent pretty house guest lured into the nursery and raped. In his A Wedding Present she excelled in the emotionally faceted role of the Bride, who enters marriage with shy nervousness, and expands into confident happiness with her hus-

into a blowsy, vulgar and desperate assertiveness.

She also danced ballets by Maurice Béjart (Sonate à trois), Walter Gore (Light Fantastic) and John Cranko Beauty and the Beast). When Jack Carter made Cage of God (1967), he gave her a powerful solo of grief.

Her first choreography was Suite for Five Dancers, to a score by Jean Françaix. Where Peter Darrell and Laverne Meyer tended to make concentrated dramas, she preferred a lighter, more dance-focused touch, with hints of flirtation and rivalry but nothing definite enough to qualify as a plot. John Percival wrote: "It is a beginner's work and a modest one at telligent and original creator." It also

band until she discovers his former it makes good use of its music and homosexualtyl and disintegrates its dancers, and it is entertaining."

When Western Theatre Ballet moved to Glasgow to become Scotland's national company, Hywel joined Laverne Meyer who had decided to add to the regional trend in dance with his own company based in Manchester. This was Northern Dance Theatre and for its opening season Hywel was a stealthy cat in Frank Staff's Peter and the Wolf and the heroine in Andrée Howard's Death and the Maiden.

She herself created Summer Music (1969), to a score by Samuel Barber, and The Clear Light (1970), to music by Messaien, which Percival said "bears the mark of an inthat Yet it has charm, ease and flow, showed off the remarkable expres-

siveness of the dancer John Fletch- to London in 1973, although she later er who played the part of a man searching for an ideal. Yet Hywel's approach was almost abstract, with a consistent progression of move-and operas and choreographing for, ment running through the piece to

give it a firm backbone. She went on to choreograph Threequarter Profile, portraying an artist and his models, and in 1973 The Teachings of Don Juan, a monumentally ambitious piece derived from Carlos Castaneda's cult book of the same name, about the hallucinogenic drugs used by Yaqui I ndians. John McCabe wrote a commissioned score, and, although Hywel's conception was less than successful, she still managed to produce vivid movement images.

married someone else - John Powell, a jazz musician. In London she found work dancing in musicals among others, Opera North, D'Oyly Carte, and Scottish Opera.

In 1986 she was assistant choreographer to Anthony van Laast for Jonathan Miller's ENO staging of The Mikado, in which she also appeared as a dancer, and from there began a close relationship with the company in which she oversaw the choreography for seven or more revivals at the Coliseum. Suzanne Hywel also often collaborated with Anthony van Laast in musicals, opera, television and Royal Shakespeare Company productions. Her last job was choreographing the She decided to follow a boyfriend



'Charm, ease and flow'

dances for Scottish Opera's The Queen of Spades last June. NADINE MEISNER

Suzanne Hywel, dancer and choreographer: born Tunbridge Wells Kent 15 February 1944; married John Powell; died 2 December 1998.

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CHANGING OF TH The Household Car Mounted Regiment the Queen's Life G Horse Guards, 11: NESDAY REVIEW

Karl Denver

octave spanning acrobatics on the 1962 hit "Wimoweh".

But he was also a versatile singer and acoustic guitarist and he chose good songs irrespective of their sources turn-of-the-century ballads, music-hall favourites and contemporary pop songs as well as folk, country and rock'n'roll material. With the exception of Lonnie Donegan, no other artist in the early 1960s worked from such a broad base. And, like Donegan, Denver had such a distinctive voice that whatever he sang automatically became his own. For a start, how many other pop singers of the day could yodel?

He was born Angus Murdo Mckenzie, in Glasgow, in 1932. He left school at 14 and embarked on a decade of wanderlust and adventure. First he joined the Scandinavian Mercantile Marine as a deckhand and was soon travelling the world. He practised the guitar and entertained his shipmates. Next he went into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was wounded during the Korean War. Then he returned to the sea. He was such a tough, hard-living character that the Rhodesians gave him the nickname "Boaty Maseteno", meaning "brother of Satan".

Still only 21, he jumped ship in America and played in clubs in Tennessee and Denver. He befriended the country singers Faron Young and Lefty Frizzell and became the first British performer to play on the Grand Ole Opry radio show. In 1956, he was offered a management and recording contract, but, as he said, "I was asked to sign up, but I had to do the bump as I shouldn't have been there in the first place."

He returned to the UK and settled in Biackburn, Lancashire, where he renamed himself Karl Denver. He said, "I had a son called Karl who was killed and I thought I would keep his name. For a time I lived in Fort Collins in Colorado and I thought Denver was a good place, so I became Karl Denver."

Soon he was established around the Lancashire clubs and pubs, notably the Yew Tree in Manchester, and the television producer Jack Good offered him work on a new ITV series, Whom! Good also produced Denver's records for Decca; with two excellent musicians, The guitarist Kevin Neill from the Joe Loss Orchestra and the bassist Jerry Cottrell, the Karl Denver Trio

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was formed. The highlight of Denver's act was a fiery version of a Zulu chant, "Wimoweh", which he claimed to have learnt in Africa. However, it had been recorded in 1952 by the Weavers featuring Pete Seeger and Denver's version is clearly based on this. Decca recorded "Wimoweh" at the end of Denver's Ronnie Carroll won the UK nomination first session but decided that it was too

bizarre to release as his first single. Instead they selected "Marcheta", a revival of a 1912 ballad. Denver didn't mind. "The lyrics were beautiful, but it was my range that grabbed the people. It was a hell of a range that I did it in." The press release from June 1961 says,

TO MANY people, Karl Denver was a "A pint-sized Scot with a king-sized novelty performer, known for his yodel and a siren voice that packs the power of a hurricane blows onto the disc world this week." Denver, conscious of his size, was one of the first performers to wear Cuban heels.

"Marcheta" made No 8 on the charts, as did his second single, a revival of an old-time country song, "Mexicali Rose". Around this time, quite independently, an American doo-wop group called the Tokens had alighted on "Wimoweh" and added some lyrics, calling it "The Lion Sleeps Tonight". It made the US charts and started to gain popularity in Britain. Denver's fans in Manchester organised a petition for Decca to release 'Wirnoweh" as a single. Although "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" was already in the

to reach No 4 in March 1962. Denver's first album, also called Wimoweh, reached the Top Ten. The songs on his LPs display the wide ranges of his voice and repertoire. There was the knockabout "My Canary Has Circles Under His Eyes", a mysterious version of "She Moved Thro" the Fair", the standard "Moonlight Becomes You" and an invigorating treatment of the Irish folk song "Three

Lovely Lasses From Bannion". Denver, an experienced man in his late twenties, found himself touring on package shows with the teen idols of the day. He would supplement his income by playing roulette with the adolescent stars. He admitted later, "They thought I was a boozer and a ne'er-do-well. I was always in the pub across the road when the bus was about to go." Once, when the musicians could not afford a meal, he went into a field and brought them back some turnios.

Another musician, Clinton Ford, recalls, "He could be a pest at times, but I really liked the guy. We were playing together at the Yew Tree pub in Manchester and there was a girl magician on the bill. She produced a chihuahua out of a doll's house, and Karl was always annoying the dog, trying to disrupt the act. I was so pleased when the dog bit his finger that I went and bought the dog a drink."

In 1962, Denver hoped to represent the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest, have you?"

but he felt a little intimidated - "Every-

body else had big orchestras and I

was just a wee Glaswegian standing in

the middle of a big stage." Although

with the ludicrous "Ring A Ding Girl",

Denver had a Top Ten hit with "Never

Goodbye", a fine ballad by the yeteran

Just For Fun (1963) and he hosted the BBC Light Programme's series, Side By

Side, working in three programmes with

Denver can be seen in the pop film

composer Jimmy Kennedy.



Denver in 1962, the year he had a hit with 'Wimoweh'

the Beatles. Sadly, he found hit records hard to come by once the Mersey Beat boom had started. However, the Beatles viewed him kindly and had him as their special guest on the US television show Shindig.

In 1963 Denver and Ken Dodd both covered the same US country song, Bill Anderson's "Still". Denver recalled, "I was at Manchester Airport flying out, and Ken Dodd was in front of me. I went up behind him and started singing 'Still' in a silly voice. He said, 'Bloody hell, it's you. You've not done it very well,

In 1964 Denver returned to his roots

for a live album, Korl Denver at the Year

Tree, which many see as his best work.

It was recorded during the day while he

was in pantomime at night at the Palace

demands and was declared bankrupt in

He saw no reason to pay his tax

Theatre, Manchester.

certainly can't." Retaining Kevin Neill in his Trio, Den-

ver returned to performing in cabaret and in the back rooms of pubs. He played summer seasons and had some success in Jersey. In 1982, Tight Fit topped the charts with a revival of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" but Denver failed to grasp this opportunity to re-establish his career. In 1989 he was teamed with one of Manchester's leading groups, Happy Mondays, for "Lazyitis", a curious record which rewrote the Beatles' "Ticket To Ride", and although the single made the Top Fifty, Denver contracted pneumonia whilst filming the video.

authority ad infinitum." A few years

later he told me, "I've had three wives,

God bless 'em and keep 'em, because 1

In 1993 he released what was to be his final album, Just Loving You, aimed at the country music market. He missed almost as many notes as he hit and although he burnt up musical energy on stage, he was a frail man whose condition was made no better through heavy drinking. The final song he recorded was Burt Bacharach's "The Story of My Life".

SPENCER LEIGH

1966 and then again in 1973. The courts Angus Murdo Mckenzie (Korl Denver), took a dim view of his third bankrupt- singer: born Glasgow 16 December cy, in 1978, and he was told, "You must 1932; three times married (two sons. be shown that court orders have teeth. and one son deceased); died Man-Otherwise, you will cock a snook at chester 21 December 1998.

LITERARY NOTES

ANDREW HURLEY

Blown away by the Borges style

THIS YEAR marks the centenary of the birth of the Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges, whose stories changed forever the way writers and readers would look at fiction. For most readers, it was Borges' images - the labyrinths. libraries, knives, blindness, tigers, roses, rivers, maps, mathematics - that were most striking and original, but for Spanish-language writers, it was Borges' prose, the writing itself, that blew them away. Spanish had quite simply never been

written like this before. Borges worked hard at his style - by the time he published his first story he was in his late thirties - and in his prefaces and introductions he is forever talking about purging it of a youthful baroque, trying always for directness. If a translator is to convey some of the awe, the shock of the new, that readers in Buenos Aires felt when they first read Borges' fictions. then something of the style of that astounding writing needs to be captured.

What Borges finally achieved is a style characterised by a determined economy of resources in which every word is weighted, every word tells. In this unemphatic style, effects are often achieved with a single exploding word or phrase. dropped almost as though off-handedly into a quiet sentence: "He examined his wounds and saw, without

astonishment, that they had healed." This laconic detail "without astonishment", coming at the very beginning of "The Circular Ruins", will probably only at the end of the story be recalled by the reader who will retrospectively. see that it changes everything in the story; it is quintessential Borges.

Another clear mark of Borges' prose is its employment of words - usually adjectives, but sometimes nouns - with, or for, their etymological value. One of the most famous opening lines in Spanish literature is: "Nadie lo vio desembarcar en la uninime noche": "No one saw him slip from the boat in the unanimous night." What an odd adjective, 'unanimous" - "the one-souled night." It is so odd, in fact, that other English translations

just as odd in Spanish, and is a manifestation of Borges explicit intention to let the Latin or Greek root govern the modern word's usage. Borges' writing has often been called intellectual, and indeed it is dense with allusion. But it is also simple: the sentences are almost invariably classical in their symmetry in their balance.

Borges likes parallelism, sub-

tle repetitions-with-variations;

his only indulgence in "shock-

ing" the reader (an effect he

repudiated) may be the "Mil-

tonian displacement of ad-

jectives" ("the readers at their

studious lamps") that he al-

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have not allowed it. But it is

ludes to in his preface to "The Maker". He uses a great many semi-colons; in subtly suppressing the ands, buts, thens of the connection between two clauses. Borges achieves mystery. One knows these two statements are related, but the relationship is not overt or explicit; the reader finds, instead, the shimmer

of indeterminacy. Recognising these aspects of Borges' hard-won style, I have tried, of course, to reproduce it in my English translations, even though it would only seem "classical" and even a bit "old-fashioned" to the English-language reader. In every way I could - the choice of words, the shape of the sentences, the displacement of those adjectives, the punctuation - I have tried to respect the elements of his style.

Borges' prose was historic; Mario Vargas Llosa tells us that Spanish was suddenly "purified." "intel-lectualised" by it. For the translator who is aware of the historical importance of Borges' texts, the watershed they represent in Spanishlanguage letters, it is that prose that one must at least attempt to capture. An appreciation not only of Borges' images and themes, but of his astonishing achievement in prose, depends on it.

Andrew Hurley is the translator of Torge Luis Borges. Collected Fictions' (Allen Lane, 21 January, £20)

GAZETTE

scholar, 1716; Theobald Wolfe

Barthélemy, abbé and

'They thought I was a boozer and a ne'er-do-

well. I was always in the pub across the road'

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

COOPER: Joan Davies CB, died on 15 January in Brighton General Hospital: Formerly Children's Officer, East Sussex, Chief Inspector, Children's Department, Home Office; Director, Social Work Service, DHSS. Honorary Research Fellow, University of Sussex, since 1979. Much loved by her family and friends and respected by her colleagues, Private family cremation at her request. Donations if desired to: National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley St. London ECIV 7QE, Memorial meeting to be announced.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Princess Royal, Patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, attends an International Task Force Symposium at Haliam Street. London W1; and attends the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Horseshoe Appeal Banquet at Saddlers' Hail, London EC2. Princess Margaret, President, Friends of the Elderly, visits the Old Vicarage, the society's newly rebuilt home in Moulsford, Oxfordshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts . the Oueen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

astronaut, 69; Mr Tom

Baker, actor, 63; Sir John 58; Air Marshal Sir David Cousins, Air Member for Personnel, 56; Mr Derek writer, 61; The Very Rev David Edwards, Provost Emeritus of Southwark Cathedral, 70; Lord Ewing Sir David Fell, Chairman, Sir Henry Fisher, former Oxford, 81; Miss Liza Hanson, industrialist, 77; sador to Uzbekistan, 45: Major Dick Hern, former racehorse trainer, 78; Mr Vonla McBride, former director WRNS, 78; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, radio sports com-Rawson, Warden, Merton College, Oxford, 56; Mr dissident, 51; Mr Eric Stewart, rock guitarist, 54; Mr Curtis Strange, golfer, 44, Professor Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe astronomer, 60; Mr Nigel

Williams, novelist, 51; Mr

Sunday Times, 47.

John Witherow, editor, the

Births: Francesco Bartolommeo Conti, lutenist and com-

Dr Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin,

Chadwick, High Court judge, Dougan, football player and of Kirkford, former MP, 68; Northern Bank, 56; The Hon President, Wolfson College, Goddard, actress, 49; Lord Miss Barbara Hay, ambas-Frank Johnson, editor, The Spectator, 56; Commandant mentator, 54; Miss Patricia Neal, actress, 73; Dr Jessica Natan Shcharansky, Soviet

ANNIVERSARIES

poser, 1681; Jean-Jacques

Tone, Irish nationalist, 1763; André-Marie Ampère. physicist, 1775; John Tiplady Carrodus, violinist and composer, 1836; Ernest Chausson, composer, 1855; Richard Le Gallienne, writer, 1866; Johannes Jensen, poet and novelist, 1873; Hudie Ledbetter ("Leadbelly"), blues artist, 1889; Walter Piston, composer, 1894; George Burns (Nathan Birn-

baum), comedian, writer and producer, 1896; Colin Clive (Clive Greig), actor, 1898; Joy Friederike Victoria (Gessner) Adamson, companion of wild animals, and writer, 1910; Federico Fellini, film director, 1920.

Deaths: Rudolf II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1612; Charles Montagu, first Duke of Manchester, 1722; Charles VII (Charles of Bavaria), Holy Roman Emperor, 1745; David Garrick, actor, 1779; John Howard, prison reformer, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, 1837; Jean-François Millet, painter, 1875; William Miller, line-engraver, 1882; Richard Doddridge Blackmore, novelist, 1900; John Ruskin, social reformer, art critic and writer, 1900; Charles Montagu Doughty, poet and traveller, 1926; King George V, 1936; John Robinson Jeffers, poet, 1962; Edmund Charles Blunden, poet and critic, 1974; Derick Heathcoat Amory, first Viscount Amory, statesman, 1981; (Peter John) Johnny Weissmuller, actor and swimmer, 1984; Sir Robert Brown Fraser, first Director-General of ITA, 1985; Audrey

Hepburn (Edda van Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston), actress, 1993; Sir Matt (Matthew) Busby, football manager and president, 1994.

On this day: Simon de Mont-

Westminster Hall, the first at

knights attended, as well as

the clergy and magnates.

fort's parliament met in

which burgesses and

1265; the trial of King Charles I began, 1649; the First Fleet sent to Botany Bay arrived in New South Wales, 1788; London Docks. were first opened, 1805; Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia at the Battle of Yungay, 1839; Hong Kong was ceded to Britain by China, 1841; the Mersey Railway Tunnel was opened by the Prince of Wales, 1886; the first game of basketball was played at Springfield, Massachusetts. 1892; during a naval battle at the entrance to the Dardanelles, the German ship Breslau was sunk and the Goeben badly damaged, 1918; Britain and China signed the Treaty of Peking, 1925; the RAF dropped 2,300 tons of bombs on Berlin, 1944; Sir Vivian Fuchs, leading the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, arrived at the South Pole, 1958; John Fitzgerald Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th US president, 1961; four crew members of the RAF Red Arrow display were killed in a mid-air collision, 1971; George Bush was sworn in as 41st US president, 1989; Bill Clinton was sworn in as 42nd US president, 1993.

Today is the Feast Day of St Euthymius the Great, St

Fabian, pope, St Fechin and St Sebastian.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert

Museum: Patricia Baker. "An Ikat Robe of 19th-century Central Asia", 2pm. British Museum: Susan Youngs, "Medieval Irish Saints and Sinners*. 11.30am; Lorna Goldsmith, "Leaden Hearts", 12.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Simon Crocker, "The John Kobal Photographic Award 98 Series (ii): John Kobal and the Hollywood Connection", 1.10pm.

DINNERS

Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Blenders' Company Mr Simon Orlik, Master of the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Blenders, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening at Painters' Hall, London EC2. Mr Alastair Ross Goobey was the principal guest. Mr John Alexander, Assistant, also spoke. Mr Tommy Cookson, Headmaster, Sevenoaks School, Mr Edward Blanchard-Wrigglesworth, Company scholar and Mr David Jones, Superintendent of the Corporation Parks and Gardens, were among the guests.

APPOINTMENTS

Judge Harold Wilson and Judge Alan Wilkie QC, to be Judges of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

WHERE A local council WEDNESDAY commenced possession proceedings in the county court LAW REPORT

20 JANUARY 1999

Manchester City

and another

Court of Appeal

(Lord Justice Auld,

Sir John Knox

21 December 1998

defence the defendants wished

The district judge, taking

the view that the county court

did have jurisdiction to hear and

Housing Act 1996 in respect of a dwelling house subject to an intoductory tenancy, once the court had ascertained that the requirements Council v Cochrane regarding the notice of proceedings in section 128 of the Act had been satisfied, it was positively required to Lord Justice Judge and

under section 127 of the

make a possession order. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the council against the decision that the county court had jurisdiction to entertain a defence in possession proceedings brought under section 127 of the Housing Act 1996.

On 15 April 1997 the council granted a joint weekly tenancy to the defendants, which was expressed to be an introductory tenancy within the terms of the Housing Act 1996. Section 127 of the Act

provided: (1) The landlord may only bring an introductory tenancy to an end by obtaining an order of the court for possession of the dwelling house. (2) The court shall make such an order unless the provisions of section 128 apply.

Section 128 provided for service of a notice of proceedings. Section 129 provided for a review by the landlord, on request, of its decision to seek a possession order under section 127.

Possession proceedings against the defendants were commenced on 9 April 1998 for breaches of the tenancy agreement, the council having aiready conducted a review under section 129. The council objected to the jurisdiction of had clearly imposed a statutothe county court to hear the ry limitation on the right of an

guin Guide to Jazz on CD.

In eight years and four

editions, it has grown to

1750 pages:

determine the proposed defences, gave directions for inter alia, the filing of the defence. The council's appeal was dismissed by the judge, and it appealed to the Court of Appeal.

Andrew Arden QC and Jonathan Manning (Manchester City Attorney) for the council; Peter E. Buckley (Clifford Chapman & Co, Manchester) for the defendants. Sir John Knox said that the

to advance.

private law right of the tenant under an introductory tenancy was no more than a right to possession until an order for possession in favour of the landlord was made by the court; and such an order had to be made once the requirements of section 128 regarding the notice of proceedings had been complied with.

mandatory terms, Parliament

introductory tenant to retain possession. There was a remarkable constriction of the court's powers in that under section 128(1), the court was prohibited from even entertaining possession proceedings unless the various requirements regarding the notice of proceedings contained in section 128 were satisfied, whilst if those requirements were satisfied, the court was positively required to make a Dossession order under section 127(2). The function of the court was reduced to that of ascer-

to entertain the proceedings. It was accepted by the council that its duty to comply with section 129(2) was subject to judicial review. It was equally clear that that duty was a public law duty and that the correlative right in the tenants to have it lawfully performed had to be a public law right.

taining that it had jurisdiction

The county court had at least to have jurisdiction to grant an adjournment if satis-fied that there was a real chance of leave to apply for judicial review being granted. It was, however, one thing to grant an adjournment to permit the exercise of relevant rights in another jurisdiction, and quite another thing for the court itself to embark upon an investigation of the very issues which that other jurisdiction

would have power to rule upon. It would be a clear contravention of section 127(2) for the county court to entertain a defence based on a denial of allegations of breaches of a ten-By enacting section 127(2) in ancy agreement relied upon in a notice under section 128.

> KATE O'HANLON Barrister

PROBABLY THE best book WORDS ever is Richard Cook and Brian Morton's The Pen-

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

viviparous, adj.

Born in Kew and Laswell's reworking of Dunoon, Cook and Morton Miles Davis being a cause do not affect hip jive, but "to fear the beresies of their prose is oberated by the epigoni, and yet in the

born viviparously out of the post-war Dizzy Gillespie band". Coined by Sir Thomas

Browne, from the Latin for something brought forth alive, viviparous is entirely zoological in the OED - no such phrases as Bill event this is a classic hint of vibes.

Miles Davis album"; also,

in generative mode, "the

Modern Jazz Quariet was

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, do you know the price of a pint of milk?)

ara Palmer-Tomkinson, 27, is best known for being an It Girl - one of a group of women wealthy backgrounds and knack for publicity. Her parents, Fatti and Charles Palmer-Tomkinton, are good friends of Prince harles. She grew up on a 1,200-acre irm near Basingstoke and was incated at Sherborne school. Afterning out of stage school and trya job in the City she came to the ention of the press when she was indographed with Princes William ad Harry. Work as a model and on Viollowed. She has a column in the aday Times Style magazine. "art's the most important thing

arrive learnt in the last year? :>:cca Fielding, **Solihull** in make my own judgements about legle - they're never what they People who seem horrible re nice and vice versa. I know now : I've got to be tougher and not a inition in by people in my in-: it = the kind of people in never say "thank you". mer offer to pay the bill, and :: :: me drugs at parties en I find out they're from : "papers. I've got to be

That would you most like doing in five years'

ian Fairloth, Manchester h'to to be married with will living in the country and ting up to London regulari uppose I'd like to be living rry parents.

iten was the last time you lost, " 'mper" ⇔ Fentiman, Hove

an't iost it for years. I am ' : datile: when I lose my temdiviose it. These days I'm that silling with kindness; being three and making people feel

gribe yourself, in

Harn W8 person I've always been: initiated door and my father's "ten I'm also a "celebrity" · ives in this strange, superworld. Basically, I don't look my elf in the same way in people do.

First was the last film you and book you read? ing Foley, Edinburgh ment Expectations on ico, over the weekend. wheel is The Little inice - my father used read it to me as a id and I'm always . :: -ading it.

Isn't there more to life than Ursula Ambroke, Maidstone clothes and parties? Fiona Liner, SW2

Yes, there is. In fact, when I'm at As for parties, I've been to so many. I'm tired of them. I like being on my own a lot more. I love doing things like cleaning my own car and tidying my house. I don't want to be typecast as a party girl.

If you went to college, what would you most like to take a degree in? Candice Marlborough, Essex Psychology. I've become quite spiritual in the last year, which has made me more interested in psychology.

Do you get lots of freebies for mentioning certain products in your Sunday Times column? Michelle Grove, Leicester

Yes, I do. If I say I've got flu, Lemsip will send me a whole batch of stuff; De Beers gave me a solitaire diamond; Virgin and British Airways have given me first-class tickets. But I can't advertise in my column.

Do you think Tony Blair is doing a good job? Ben Todd, Birmingham

Yes. I think he may well get an Oscar one day. I know little about politics but I do like Tony's charisma and enthusiasm, although I don't really agree with his policies.

> you're tired of getting dumped by men. Why? Do you pick the wrong ones? Jennifer Eden. Harvenden I'm not always getting dumped by men, but saving it

> > appeals to a wider

market if I'm writing a coiumn for single women. A single mother in Brixton. I'm delighted by the news - we all say will think. "Thank God, she got many boyfriends, and the one I'm with now is the right choice. I don't want a boyfriend who's from my world, who's rich and flashy. I want a real brick, with a sense of humour - someone like my father, in fact.

Can you tell me what exactly an It Girl is?

Andy Spinner, Hemel Hempstead It's the sort of girl who goes to all the right parties: polo, Ascot and Wimbledon. I hate the It label but I'm associated with all that and I can't get rid of it. There's a time and a place for everything and I want to move on. The problem is, I've moved on, it's just that others haven't.

Where's the best place you've ever stayed?

Le Tousse Roche in Mauritius. It's an exclusive, very romantic hotel.

home, I wear jeans and go barefoot. Do you know how much a pint of milk costs? Helena Shortlands, Crouch End, north London I don't, actually. A pound?

> Who did you vote for in the last Mark Collins, Leeds

> Conservative. I'm not sure who for I went back to Hampshire to vote. I just put the tick in the box.

What bores you most about your lifestyle?

Linda Free, Worcester Freelance paparazzi - they're con-stantly outside my door. I ignore them but I find them frightening. It's not particularly nice when someone's waiting for you to screw up.

Nikki Husband, Milton Keynes I can cook pasta and toast.

What's your greatest insecurity? Justine Finstock, Penarth My weight - I worry I'm too thin. I'm always being told I look anorexic, but I eat for Britain. I just find it hard

What's the most money you've spent on one shopping spree? Gael Riversdown. Pembroke £1.500 on a leopard-print dress by Givenchy. I don't really go on sprees: I usually buy one thing, then feel guilty and come home again.

What career would you pursue if you weren't an It Girl? Ali McDonald, Mile End When I was little I always wanted to own a sweet shop. Now I think I'd like to own a clothes shop.

Where you surprised when Sophie and Edward announced their Karen Pike. Stockton-on-Tees

thought it was kind of inevitable.



Send any questions for Peter latchell, gay rights activist and Margaret Cook, ex-wife of Foreign Secretary. Robin Cook. to: You Ask the Questions. Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182. or e-mail yourquestions@independent.co. uk) by noon on Friday

22 January



All dressed up - but nothing to show for it? Jerry Hall on her wedding day in Bali Rex

Reader, I never married her

Marry in Bali if you must. Just don't forget the paperwork. By Emma Cook

the non-existent wedding cake. To put up with so much ritual humiliation as a long-suffering wife is one thing, but as a duped cohabitee it is quite another. So much for the Hindu ceremony in Bali that should have meant so much. Legally, it may be as binding as a piece of string.

More than anything, she must regret that so many mundanities were overlooked: the vital details that make such a service valid. There are reports that the priest at the ceremony did not receive the correct legal documents, and that a letter of authority had not been ob-

tained from the British consul. Fatai, of course, Vanessa Lloyd Platt. senior partner for divorce specialists Lloyd Platt & Co. says: "All they weren't married to anyone else - but they didn't. Cynics would say that Mick knew Or perhaps they were both carried away with the passion of marrying in an exotic place, and forgot."

So before you throw that sarong in a suitcase, it's imperative to know just when a marriage means you abide by that country's rules. Lloyd Platt says: "People have a misconception about marrying in faraway places. It is valid as long as it is recognised by the country in which you married. You have to go through the A to Z of their criteria."

Whether it's in a mud hut in Papua New Guinea or a brothel in Texas, British law will recognise it

FOR JERRY it must be the icing on as legally binding. Lloyd Platt adds, "You have to go to the consulate and prove that the right number of witnesses were there – usually two – and go through the requisite steps". Lloyd Platt has seen a steep

rise in cases of these sorts, usually where a couple married years ago, often in a tribal ceremony. "Frequently it's because witnesses 🥀 weren't present. It's devastating for the people involved, and often they only find out when they try to file for divorce."

The only comfort is that nowexotic weddings have become so popular - around 10,000 people a year opt for a foreign ceremony - the process is far more well established. Many holiday companies offer wedding packages for around they had to produce was a piece of £4,000 a go, all with comprehensive of them, like Thomson, will advise couples what to wear, and even which ceremony to choose; naturally, far too pedestrian an option for the likes of Jerry and Mick

Still, it would probably have benefited Jerry, now a common-law wife whose criteria for claiming Mick's millions will have to be marriage. And when it doesn't. Sim-ply, a foreign wedding is kosher if come off worse," says Lloyd Platt. "As a wife, you can claim for pensions and lump sums. As a cohabitee, it depends on her own financial contributions."

All in all, with no more claim to Mick's name than his many and varied flings, Jerry must be regretting that she didn't push the ageing rocker up the aisle, and not on to that plane to Bali.

CLASSIFIED

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Octobros wishing to wate at the Meeting one I halpe their pursy, together with a full stakement of account at the registered order Clareville, House, 2027 Oscadon Claret, Loudon SW1/4 42P not Liter than I room of 20th January 1999. 12 norm on 20th January 1999.

In the purposes of weiting a secured on their is required juntes the corrections for ecountry to being at Charvelle 11 once.

2-67. Overallow Street, Lordon SWIY - 1.0 know the mechang, a statement grong parameters of his security, the chare there is one given and the value at which or correspond.

" L. Fraylich, Director.

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My person intending to oppose May person intending to oppose the application shall give notice in writing of his intention to the application and to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices specifying in general terms the grounds of his opposition not later than seven day before the commencement of

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APPLICANT: Michael John
Glasse.

Glancy ADDRESS: Flat 1, 48 Radipole Road, Pulham SW6 TRADE OR CALLING: Area Manger on Calling; Area Manger TAKE NOTICE that Applicant intends to apply at the Licensing Sessions for the said Division in be held at the place date and time shown above for the grant to him of a Justices' License authorising him to sell by retail intoxecting liquor of all descriptions for consumption on or off the above premises.

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AND FURTHER TAKE

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that was almost rustic in its simplicity. That, of course, was before the hordes of superchefs and foodie entrepreneurs swept in, demanding culinary "event" temples grandiose enough to match their egos, and the science of involve strategies as

REMEMBER THOSE days

when you went to a

restaurant for a chat, a

used to be one of those

drink and a decent bit of

wholesome, unpretentious

grub? Going out for a meal

things you just did, an act

getting a table began to fiendishly tortuous as anything a tinpot Latin American dictator could devise (which, come to think of it, could explain a certain general's fondness for dining at the River Cafe

in London). First, you have to make your booking. This usually involves phoning months ahead to stand any chance of gaining admittance to the most feverishly modish venues (which will undoubtedly be unfashionable by the time you get beyond their portals). You will then be held in a queue, fuming impotently at a Schubert

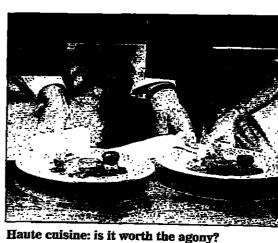
string quartet while the

phone operator counts

down the requisite three-

and-a-half minutes before

deigning to take the call,



IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

26. TRENDY RESTAURANTS BY STUART HUSBAND

then gleefully informing

you either that the establishment is solidly booked until 2003 (the preferred option), or that they could possibly squeeze you in on the preferred date as long as you arrive at 6.32pm precisely and leave no later than 7.45pm. By this time the average caller is so psychologically broken that unbidden tears of gratitude start to flow.

Unfortunately, however, the humiliation is only just beginning. When you arrive at your gastrodrome of choice you have to negotiate armies of hostile bouncers (the more sadistic of whom may insist on random internal examinations), before being thrust into a

cavernous hangar where you're met by an exquisitely disdainful maitre d' who's always taller/ thinner/ better dressed than you. The journey to your table means running the gauntlet of swearing, sweating sous-chefs glowering from the voguish visible kitchen and may remind you of the scene where Jodie Foster slinks

past serial killers' cells in The Silence of the Lambs. When you arrive at your table (under a stairwell, in the teeth of a howling gale between the fire exit and the gents' loo), you embark on the 45-minute wait for your food with only caraway seeded rosemary and nutmeg bread rolls for

sustenance.

Naturally, the food itself comes a long way down the food chain of the dining

experience. The staple "Modern British" fare of these establishments invariably features a salmon fishcake (can anyone remember what we used to eat before the salmon fishcake was thrust upon us?) with accompaniments whose innovativeness is in direct inverse proportion to their consumability (beds of griddled celeriac, litchi mash, lard shavings).

Not that you'll have a chance to finish it - at the stroke of 7.44pm, those waiters swoop down and frogmarch you out, pausing only for you to stop at the gift shop to buy the souvenir matchbook/ ashtray/ mug tree of your time spent at Marco Pierre White's or Sir Terence Conran's pleasure. This relic, the proof that you were there, is the gastronomic equivalent of the U2 Wembley '98 T-shirt, confirming that restaurants really are the new rock'n'roll

The more faint-hearted among us can only plead indigestion, and join the legions of gastronomic refuseniks (also known as the Disciples of Delia) who stubbornly insist that Staying In is the new

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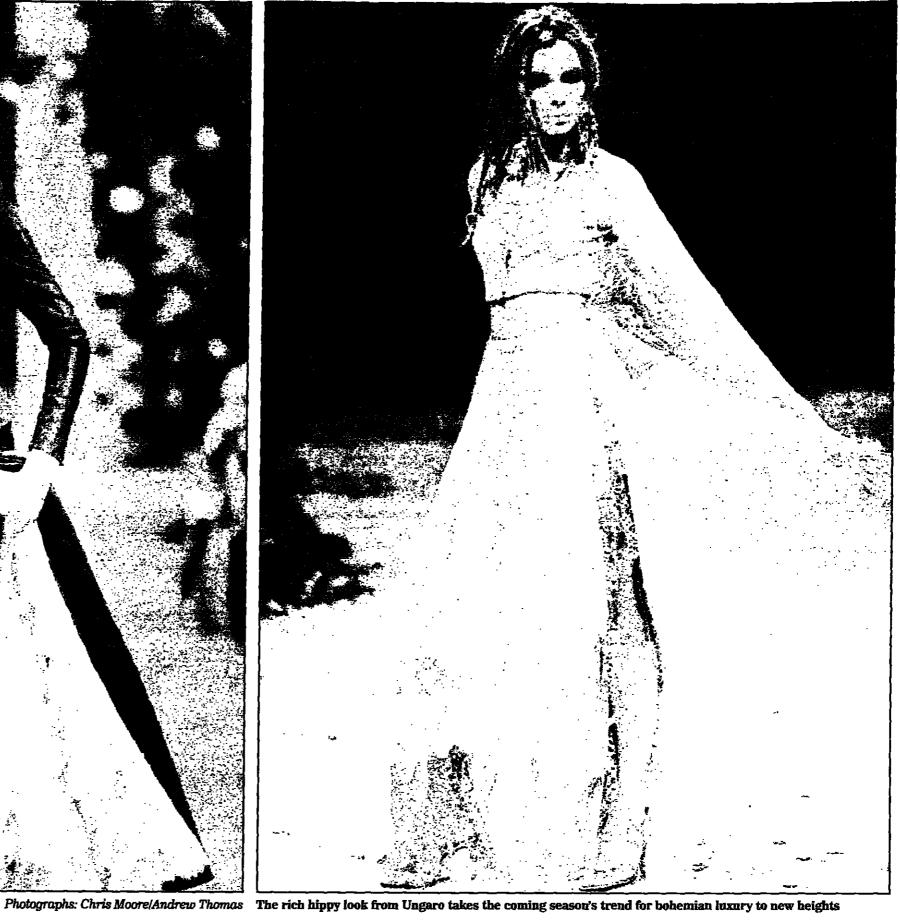
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Mane Waller, European Ho Witte Arth Ltd. to Merce Det A LEADING INTERNATION PEQUIPES A SECONDARY LO FOR PRICING AND PC The role will also be resp e credit product sales li Paper must possess.

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Givenchy's Victorian biker mixes her dress with leather trousers

Made-to-measure fantasies

Haute couture is the ultimate extravagance, showing off the skills of the designer even in the more understated creations

to use Alexander McQueen's collection for Givenchy, broidery on jacket collars and cuffs. shown in Paris this week, as a metaphor – albeit an unwitting one on the part of the designer - for houte couture as

″.. <u>Tre</u>

· =.

While the ready-to-wear collections in London, Paris, New York and Milan are all about creating a cohesive look and dictating massmarket trends, couture concerns itself only with the crafting of individual pieces. Even the most seemingly minimal garment is worked on for hours, often days, showing off not only the creative abilities of its designer but also the exquisite skills of the atelier as a whole.

McQueen's concept for Givenchy, then, was apposite: an imaginary turn-of-the-century French village inhabited by, among others, "the banker", "the vintner", "the debutante", "the nun" and "the maid" - all dressed in their own, often highly A syncratic, way.

First came "the librarian", in strictly tailored little dress - a Givenchy staple by now. Next was the fantasy "schoolmistress", in bour-glass skirt-suit, with four winsome schoolchildren dutifully in tow. The "ribbon-maker", sporting no fewer than 1000 metres of rainbow-coloured latticework, showed off the remarkable skills of the label A-line dresses, however, em-

the finest lace and Chinese em-

Now, in his fifth season at Givenchy, McQueen has managed to create a distinct identity for the company which is, rather cleverly, very different from that of his signature label. He is, after all, catering to the whims of an entirely different client. In place of raw, often subversive energy, a more gentle, playful spirit has come to the fore. Biker leathers worn under a corseted cassock of a wedding dress were a cute play on tradition, however. And how about an haute couture hooker, her leather skirt so short that stocking tops and suspenders were on display?

Donatella Versace, like McQueen, is clearly busy carving out her own identity as opposed to simply following in the footsteps of her late brother Gianni. While she has maintained the fluid glamour - the liquid chainmail, the acres of leather and lace - that was his signature until now, this show saw a move towards a hard-edged aesthetic more reminiscent, some may say, of her broth-

er's work back in the Eighties. The show was strongest where the designer stuck to what the house does best: leather trousersuits (and one in inky-black sequins) with the high-octane glamour the client has come to expect from the

t would not be unreasonable Givenchy atelier to the full, as did bellished with needles in gleaming metal, glass and wood, seemed more derivative.

Ms Versace has said that her interest lies primarily in the field of fabric development - who else would send out a jacket crafted in stingrayskin, if you please? This alone makes her a designer set to take houte couture into the 21st century. The mighty Yves Saint Laurent. who closes the proceedings later

today, has, even before showing. more than made his mark on other people's runways - most notably those of Jean Paul Gaultier and (less so) John Galliano. In both cases this seemed more like a timely tribute than unscrupulous plagiarism. Mr Saint Laurent retired from ready-to-wear last October, and it is

Gaultier who is rumoured eventually to take over the couture arm of the label. To this end, the Gaultier show seemed almost like a job application; suffice it to say that the powers that be at Saint Laurent will be suitably impressed. Gaultier cuts one of the finest trouser-suits in the business they looked great in navy crepe,

neatly slashed at the shoulder, or plain black, with legs going on for ever. An African theme running through the show was, equally, clearly inspired by Saint Laurent: a wisp of a dress suspended from antique metal collars; another from a with clock faces for irises; suits gleaming breast-plate. There was



SUSANNAH FRANKEL Fashion Editor reports from Paris

great wit to this collection, too. Gaultier is, after all, a man fast establishing a reputation for modernising haute couture. A stonewashed denim evening dress trimmed with dyed-to-match ostrich plumes brought a smile to even the most silicone-impregnated lips, as did a trouser-suit labelled "the eternal triangle"; the crotch was cut away to reveal black bikini bottoms (triangular) beneath.

The haute couture collections found John Galliano in surrealist mood. At his show for Christian Dior there were jewel-encrusted fastenings shaped like oversized eyes, with jackets worn back to front; lob-

sters in place of handbags; even a collection back to the intimate Dior blouses and full or tiered long skirts. Magritte lookalike escorting a model

to her pedestal centre-stage.
John Galliano, too, looked to Saint Laurent for inspiration. His silhouette was more fluid than Gaultier's, but as long, lean and sinuous as even the most discerning couture customer could wish. This was a landmark collection on the part of this younger but equally influential designer: a return to past, brilliant form. This time, there were happily as many tailored garments in the show as there were bias-cut dresses Galliano is justly famous for both, though for the past couple of seasons fashion commentators could have been forgiven for forgetting that.

Galliano's interpretation of le smoking was heart-stoppingly beautiful, cut back to front and as lovely (oh, blasphemy), if not more so, than the the original that inspired it. Equally gorgeous were black-and-white evening dresses embroidered in the spirit of Jean Cocteau, and a wedding dress with an overblown skirt in Cellophane and tulle that looked like the delicate underside of the world's largest, most immaculate mushroom: Mother Nature was not even a contender.

Galliano has been criticised recently for sacrificing clothing to spectacle, as well as for relying too heavily on fashion history for inspiration. In a brave move, he took his

more than 60 at a time. If anyone ever doubted that he is a master of his craft, this show proved it.

With millennium fever (yawn) reaching a peak, it would be easy to forget that there is a trusty couture client who prefers not to wear her wealth - or the whims of a designer ~ quite so blatantly on her sleeve. She is a traditional soul, more comfortable with discreet luxury than with in-your-face ideas. To this end, Valentino didn't disappoint. The Italian designer presides over the largest atelier in the world and this season, as always, the intricacy of craftsmanship was second to none. Ivory skirt-suits with hidden fastenings were embroidered at the waist in the same cool colour, blink and you might have missed it. Little black cocktail dresses with dropped waists seemed simple, only revealing a panel of exquisitely beaded flowers from behind. Another, in beige, was embellished with barely noticeable shell-pink roses.

Emanuel Ungaro has never been a designer for shrinking violets, but these days his work is far more subtle. Gone are the virulent colours, the colliding prints, in favour of a more muted aesthetic. For spring/ summer 1999 the designer went for an ethnic look: sari tops, peasant

in recent years) to an audience of no ers such as this one as failing to push fashion forward. But to do so would be to ignore an ever-increasing client base, not to mention one that suggests there is more to conture than simply creating an image and selling scent

Karl Lagerfeld can do little wrong these days. Chanel haute couture stands alone, inasmuch as it is re-spected not only by the awant garde, but also by its more traditionally minded customer. This season was no exception. Tweedy signature Chanel jackets were narrow but relaxed - more like cardigans, and best worn with wide-legged pants. Colours were the finest of the couture season: dusty rose, primrose, violet and fern. The best thing about the collection was its supreme subtlety: a long-line cardigan was constructed entirely from beads; sequins were opalescent as opposed to dazzling, like fish-skin. Eveningwear came in the form of immaculate column dresses, worn in layers, or - in a Monon des Sources moment - fitted bodices and low-slung, asymmetrically draped, overblown skirts. As I left the show, models mingling all around, I felt two hands on my shoulders. I turned to find Mr Lagerfeld himself behind me.

Touched by the hand of God, in fashion circles, at least.



Jean Paul Gaultier







○ @ 0 •



John Galliane for Christian Dior



Valentino

A spiral into terminal decline

The Design Museum's 'Modern Britain' exhibition looks back at the golden era of 20th-century architecture. So why are gems such as the De La Warr pavilion at Bexhill falling into decay? Ask Chris Smith. By Ken Powell

he De La Warr pavilion at Bexhill on Sea might seem a perfect icon for Blairite Britain. Opened in 1936, it was the first truly modern public building in this country - and remains one of the finest. It was inspired by democratic, internationalist ideals, designed by architects who tlike Hadid and Libeskind today) were denounced by conservatives as "aliens". It put Bexhill on the world map. It remains a place of pilgrimage for architects and students from many countries. To our shame, however, they find a building which is treated not as a national treasure (though it is Grade 1 listed) but as a local problem.

The decision of the Arts Lottery. just two months ago, to reject a bid for £16.5m to complete the refurbishment of the building and instead Lonfier a mere £120,000 to "rescope" the project was a devastating blow. The chief executive of Rother Council (which owns the pavilion and spends £1m a year running it) told the Culture Secretary Chris Smith iting the building on the day that the Lottery decision was announced -"the decision may have sounded the death knell for the project".

Mr Smith's response has not been made public, but it is the reform of the Lottery under New Labour away from capital projects and into revenue funding - which has left the De La Warr stranded. While the pavilion's general manager, Caroline Collier expresses confidence that the necessary funding will be found in the end, "if we behave ourselves", the immediate outlook is rather bleak. The 1.000-seat theatre, in particular, is in such a dire state that it may have to be closed on health and safety grounds. Ironically, at the very time that the De La Warr was turned down by the Lottery, £15 million went to the Dome in nearby Brighton. It looks like a classic case of Lottery blight with money (the Arts Lottery provided £500,000 in 1995 to develop the scheme), and waste of effort.

The pavilion is an extraordinary, unlikely object to find in a minor South Coast resort. Not everybody

DUCHESS THEATRE

but 60 years later there are residents alive who remember the opening. "The dear old Pay," wrote one of them. "I could fill pages with a list of all the interest, enjoyment and not a little romance that it gave me."

The pavilion was first envisaged as an entertainments hall when a competition for its design was launched in 1933 at the behest of the Earl De La Warr, a progressive whose election as Mayor of Bexhill owed something to his family's extensive land holdings in the town. The competition was won by Erich Mendelsohn, who had quit Nazi Ger-many (and a highly successful practice), and Serge Chermayeff - born in Chechnya but educated at Harrow and Cambridge and married to a girl he had met at a Sussex tennis party.

Bexhill's Mayor envisaged – and got – a thoroughly modern building.

Nobody in Bexhill had seen anything like this - except, perhaps, in the Thirties film Things to Come.

The building, on a prime site overlooking the Channel, was sleek, dynamic, looking a little like an ocean liner. It was constructed on a bands of windows. Inside were white walls, polished cork or terrazzo floors and furniture of bent wood and stainless steel. The curved staircase was spectacular with a chromeplated light 23 feet long hanging in the wid. There was a restaurant, complete with a dance floor, a wellstocked reading room and a sun terrace. The flat roof could be used for deck games - the liner analogy again. There was scope for bedonism - and self-improvement. It was a glimpse of the future. "Bexhill has emerged from barbarism at last," declared Bernard Shaw.

The ideals behind the pavilion inspired the new generation of architects who rebuilt Britain after the Second World War. The building itself, however, was damaged in the Blitz. Its steelwork (the architects had originally wanted reinforced concrete) proved vulnerable to the seaside climate. There were alterations, not always in good taste flock wallpaper and fitted carpet crept in. Partitions and suspended ceilings obliterated sublime spaces.

realist photography can co-exist. cidedly dowdy and in need of major Caroline Collier believes, to keep lorefurbishment. A local trust, with Lib-Dem councillor Jill Theis as a prime cals happy as well as attract a wider

mover, spurred the local authority into action. To its credit. Rother took up the challenge and English Heritage offered a grant for urgent external repairs. The architect John McAslan was appointed in 1991 to repair the fabric and subsequently to masterplan a major refurbishment - the scheme shelved by the Lottery.

McAslan's proposals envisage de-veloping new amenities, including a spacious gallery, and updating those, like the theatre, which already exist. Office and storage space - virtually non-existent - will be provided in a sensitive extension, freeing up the historic interior. Performances by interior includes a spiral local star Eddie Izzard, tea dances,

regional audience. Rother council has spent £1.5m on repairs and improvements since 1990. Now, not unreasonably, it expects national backing for the Pay. It should receive it - and quickly.

'Modern Britain 1929-1939', sponsored by The Independent, is at the Design Museum, London SE1, from today (0171-378 6055)

The De La Warr pavilion overlooks the Channel and resembles an ocean liner. Its staircase, and a 23-foot whist drives and exhibitions of sur- chrome-plated light Hulton



Dream a tiny dream

POP

THE CORRS CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA

IT'S TEMPTING to look for sociological reasons for the incredible commercial success of the Dundalk sibling combo - best-selling recording artists of 1998, with an album that's about to go octuple-platinum (that's eight times 300,000). Is it due to a symbolic reassertion of good oldfashioned family values, the endur-ing appeal of all things Irish, or the group's canny positioning in the newly resurgent pop market as a con-temporary equivalent to the AOR of Seventies Fleetwood Mac, only with out the marital strife and heavy rock pretensions?

The answer, however, appears to be far more simple: The Corrs are very attractive, very very good and fairly undemanding, which can be a devastating combination when coupled with the resources of a megacorp record company. Traditional Irish instruments lend a welcome human feel to the digital thumps of the group's borrowing from dance music - which are more chip shop than hip hop - and they sing real songs with real voices in a very appealing way. But could they big up their live act to fill an arena? And, more seriously, could they make you forget that parody on French and Saunders' Christmas special, where The Corrs were shown as clones?

That they succeeded on both counts so emphatically was due not only to their considerable personal charm but to their prowess as musicians. Lead singer Andrea doesn't just look gorgeous on the video screens; she plays a mean penny whistle. Sister Caroline whacks the drum kit with all the conviction of Prince's Sheila E. and Sharon's fiddle playing would not be disgraced in the best west of Ireland traditional music bars. And brother Jim? Not only is he loved by all the girls in the audience, and their mums, a solo spot playing a traditional air on piano showed he was not just a pretty face.

While the response of the audience to all this was muted to begin with, the onset of some anthemic double-time fiddling provokes outcreaks of riverdancing. When the lights are flashed in the audience's faces it's the cue for wholesale jigs and reels. By the last number - the cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" - everyone is on their feet. For the

first encore, all hands are raised. While the mechanics of arena performance perhaps inevitably tends towards the Pavlovian, the response The Corrs get really does seem to be due to the stimulus of t their impeccably professional performance, and not just a given. The venue might be dehumanised, but they are not.

A second encore of another traditional reel emphasises the group's by now rather urbanised folk roots, and it's a very happy crowd that leaves for home. But while The Corrs are genuinely talented and their performance undeniably impressive, by the end of the evening a cynic might feel that the overall menu they offer is just too sweet, smooth and anodyne for all but the most democratic of tastes. I left yearning for something harsh, nasty and dirty all the way home.

PHIL JOHNSON

in the town loved it when it was new, By the Eighties, the pavilion was de-BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR EVENING STANDARD AWARDS 1998 DAVID BURKE SARA KESTELMAN MATTHEW MARSH THE ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION OF 'MICHAEL FRAYN'S BRILLIANT NEW PLAY' COPENHACEN LIGHT NO DESIGN: MARK HENDERSON TREMENDOUS, DETECTIVE THRILLER NOT TO BE MISSED **FROM** 5 FEB BOX OFFICE 0171 494 5075

Circles in the sand | Hang on to your hats

YOU CAN scarcely tell, as the light gradually comes up at the beginning of Shijima, whether the figure posed high up against the back wall is a man or a statue. Only very slowly does Ushio Amagatsu give away the secret, by moving first his arms, then his head, and finally his whole body. This extremely gentle, tardy movement sets the tone for the whole piece, and one benefit of it is that when, eventually, Amagatsu momentarily flicks his hand, or even runs across the width of the stage, the contrast of pace has a startling effect.

The theme of the production seems to be the relationship of life, death and creativity. I say "seems" because the title gives nothing away (it translates as "the darkness calms down in space") and the programme note is so obscure that it only

confuses the issue. acolytes enact episodes that relate to the repeated patterns of a man's back, which are spread right across the walls behind and beside the stage, and there are indications of aspiration. exhaustion and crucifixion. A

DANCE SANKAI JUKU SADLER'S WELLS



lasting artefacts is implied

throughout the action. Previous visits by this group, Sankai Juku, have revealed similar devices: the shaven heads, the white paint on face and body, the white or pale costumes, the minimal movement. Again there are seven scenes (is this a magic number But Amagatsu and his four for Amagatsu?) lasting about 90 minutes, with no interval.

This time there is less of the amusing eccentricity of earlier shows (the peacock strutting around the stage in Kinkan Shonen, the pool which men fell into in Unetsu), but struggle to survive and to make the sparseness of Shijimo.

compels attention and urges the exercise of imagination. Sand is a motif spread on the floor, kicked up by their feet, or falling on them unexpectedly from above. Think, maybe, of ashes to ashes - but that could be misleading.

Is this all too enigmatic? One or two spectators who left quietly during the evening's early stages apparently thought so, but at the end there was loud cheering from those willing to accept the highly individual and allusive work. Except for the musical soundtrack by Yas-Kaz and Yoichiro Yoshikawa. which provides an atmospheric background and marks the change from one section to another, Shijima is virtually a one-man show with Amagatsu as author, director, choreographer, designer and chief per-

former. Even the four men who music" audience can do is hold form a supporting group seem on for the ride. like extensions of Amagatsu, not exactly duplicates but close to it. What turns them into disciples of this man? Presumably his intensity and originality which are what appeal to au-

JOHN PERCIVAL Booking: 0171-863 8000 | line-up of larynx-wobbling vir- spoons and various body parts.

and pork-pie hats left Romania in the wee hours of yesterday morning, and would rather kip in the corner of Ronnie Scott's than do anything so formal as tune up. The Taraf de Haïdouks' resultant cacophony is, it turns out, merely a prelude to a lengthy set brimming with passion, melodrama and jawdropping talent. The older members deliver songs of love and loss in guttural howls with

THE 12 men in ill-fitting suits

cheese-grater voices, before the ensemble breaks down into smaller groups for increasingly competitive and complex instrumental numbers. In showcasing individual skills on fiddle, flute, double bass, accordion and the rippling sounds of the cymbalom, things career along at such a breakneck pace that all tonight's largely "world

The Taraf hail from Clejani, a run-down Gypsy village south west of Bucharest that is home to over 50 lautari, the professional musicians who follow village traditions and perform at weddings and other celebrations. This lot are the cream, a multi-generational

MUSIC TARAF DE HAĪDOUKS RONNIE SCOTT'S LONDON

tuosos who tackle everything from medieval ballads to berserk dance tunes. With an Arabic flavour reflecting their Gypsy origins, these unlikely lads are also showmen, whose party pieces - squeaking out an entire number on a stray violin string, for example - were

milked for all they were worth. The Taraf found fame in the West after the fall of Ceausescu (to whom they dedicate a song, "The Ballad of the Dictator") by touring the festival circuit, playing with the Kronos Quartet and Yehudi Menuhin, and releasing extraordinary collections of vernacular music. Their third and latest album. Dumbula Dumba (Crammed Discs) - which begins with barking dogs, and whose sleeve notes name-check Clejani's bartender - is helped along by a series of musafiri, or village guests, including descendants of the ancient order of bear tamers on barrels, chairs,

Tonight, however, it's just the regular Taraf, their battered instruments, and Caliu, a Brylcreemed show-stealer on violin whose lightning-fast fingering should have left his strings smoking. Proceedings take on a darkly soulful, Fellini-esque delirium; fiddles are smacked with bows, double basses are plucked, beer bellies become accessories in impromptu solo

dances and duets offer a chance to settle grudges. They escape the confines of folklore thanks to the elders' love of improvisation (the only conceivable link between the Taraf and this week's venue) and the more youthful members' drive to innovate. The resultant face-offs between the former's traditional rhythms and songs and the latter's predilection for Turkish, Serbian and Bulgarian sounds imbues the whole shebang with a creative frisson that keeps things fluid and fresh. Both exhilarating and exhausting, it's a window into a way of life which, by their very presence, the Taraf are helping to keep alive. None of them, apparently, can read or write. No matter: they can certainly play.

JANE CORNWELL

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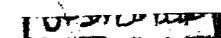
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DNESDAY REVIEW ependen, 20 Januar, 1996

A word from the wise

Playwright Peter Gill may not be a household name but he's a force to be reckoned with. And when it comes to the direction of British theatre, he's not a man to keep his opinions to himself. By David Benedict

hen his first play, A Sleeper's Den was first performed as a one-off at the Royal Court in 1966, Peter Gill was too nervous to watch. Afterwards, the artistic director George Devine found him hiding in the wardrobe department. Gill needn't have worried, however. Devine immediately encouraged him to write more.

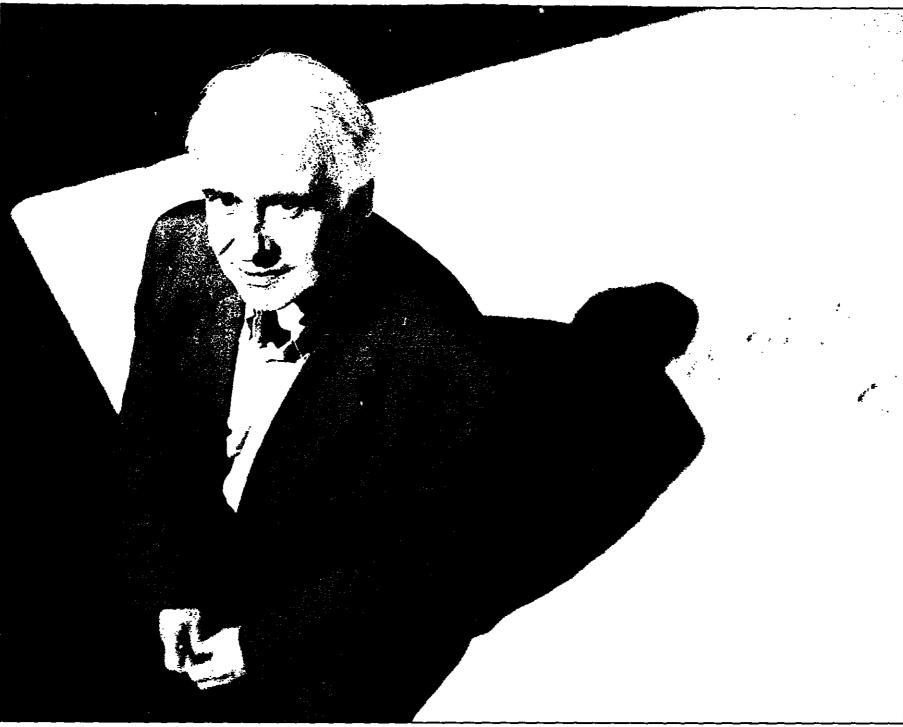
Since then he has produced a small but impressive body of work bearing his quietly distinctive stamp. Two years ago, in a particularly adroit meeting of minds, he wrote a remarkably airy and elegant translation of Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard for the RSC. Even working from the inspiration of another playwright, the hallmarks of his own writing were there. Unfashionably quiet, beautifully composed and emotionally acute, Small Change, Kick for Touch, and last year's Cardiff East all resonate in the memory, thanks to their remarkable compassion and linguistic finesse. There's more where that came from in Certain Young Men, his latest play which is about to open at the Almeida.

The kneejerk response to the choice of venue is that there must be a part for a Hollywood lead. Wrong. With the possible exception of Jeremy Northam, the eight actors Gill has assembled are not well known. Yet casting is unlikely to have been a problem as good actors feast upon his theatrically generous writing but not because of traditionally juicy, grandstanding lead roles. Gill's almost musical prose is pared right down - all the better to act upon and narratives are shared, every part balanced to create an emotional whole. If that sounds elusive, try the forthright line from Certain Young Men being used in the publicity: "What are two grown men doing living together faking all the stupidities of a fake straight relationship?"

The nature and boundaries of love both gay and straight have proved fertile territory for Gill. Mean Tears examined the relationships between a bisexual object of affection (played to feckless perfection by Bill Nighy in the original National Theatre production), two male friends and two women. In retrospect. summed up the mood of the Eighties. Is Certain Young Men doing the same for the Nineties? "Not in any conscious way," equivocates Gill. warily. "Mean Tears was written in, but not about, the Eighties. But looking back, that was a horrible period. Maybe that's why the relationships in it are so destructive. ... This play is definitely set in London, now. Inevitably, I suppose, I talk about specifics. I think I do tend to do this whether I know it or not."

Gill's writing has run parallel to a distinguished directing career. Less well known is that he started out as an actor. He became interested in theatre while growing up in Cardiff at the time of rock n'roll. "Our grammar school had the workingclass and lower middle-class Catholic boys in Cardiff. The posh ones went to Ampleforth and Downside." A couple of responsive teachers allowed them to put on a play and, gradually, acting became the obvious next step. "I was rather good at it, I thought. Of course I wasn't really." Good enough, however, to get into the local drama school alongside

one Anthony Hopkins. His professional career took him



"There's no rape and no one kills themselves": Peter Gill in rehearsal for his new play "Certain Young Men"

However, the Court proved an eye opener and together with Stephen Frears - who later made his name directing the films My Beautiful Laundrette and Dangerous Liaisons, both written by Royal Court proteges - he returned as an assistant director, "At the age of 24 I recognised I was not going to be the sort of actor I wanted to be. I was interested in theatre, not just acting. I always wanted to go to the other rehearsals. I'd realised I was interested in this thing of the director, the holder of the interpretive idea."

These were the Court's glory days. Devine was at the helm, but the influential directorial triumvirate of Lindsay Anderson, Bill Gaskill and Anthony Page was there too. Gill did a couple of Joe Orton's early plays but really made his mark resuscitating the neglected plays of DH Lawrence. "I don't want to get nostalgic about it because it was also a very difficult time, but there was a consensus between the director, the writer, the actor and the designer All parties got treated badly, right? But there was a profound bond between those factors."

Consequently, he's worried by what he sees as the dissolution of the

what was important. That meant that you could put up with people's ambition. In the Eighties, ambition itself became a laudable thing. My generation thought it was deeply un-

cool to use the word 'career' ... He concedes that the climate is different now because there are many more writers. "And directors," he adds, sternly, "Directing is now seen as a separate creative art.

to the Royal Court in the early Six- power of writers and actors. "There skill is. They think directing a new up the National Theatre Studio, management has been visited upon ties and to the RSC for a short spell. was a brief time when the play was play is getting it re-written, which is from 1977 he was the founder di- a perfectly well-run profession that

rave mistake In a world of literary departments and script editors, this is heresy. "It's not that I think you shouldn't rewrite, it's the cult of rewrites... the fact that something is there so that people who can't write can have views. It's just a world full of endless, endless opinions, Really what's good about a new play is what's good about it and what's bad

rector of Hammersmith's Riverside Studios, which for almost 10 years was unquestionably the country's most exciting venue, with an unparalleled profile for drama, dance and art. It opened its doors to major international companies. Beckett rehearsed in the building. there were landmark stagings of The Cherry Orchard and The Changeling (with Helen Mirren)

'These days a lot of so-called auteurs can't direct. Particularly with a new play, they don't know what to do. They think that directing a new play is getting it rewritten, which is a grave mistake'

crept in. Unquestionably, the director is a very important person and very creative. It goes without saying that if you can direct you will have personality, but part of your job is to try and get rid of it." This usually soft-spoken man is firing on all cylinders now. "These days, lots of so-called auteurs can't direct anything. Particularly with a new play. they don't know what to do, what the from experience. Not only did he set reason, the bad practice of industry from tomorrow

This business of auteurship has about it is what's bad about it." He and Gill's regime shepherded the crept in. Unquestionably, the directics his own Almeida production of not-so-faltering first steps of such di-Ellen McLaughlin's Tongue of a Bird. "Of course, it was up for cutting and rewriting. You could have done a hundred things with it but it would have taken an awfully long time. Much better to put it on and let her get on with her next play."

He's similarly exercised about the wider state of theatre and speaks

not-so-faltering first steps of such diverse talents as Siobhan Davies and Michael Nyman and held exhibitions by the likes of Richard Rogers and Norman Foster.

"We weren't forced into an endlessly large staff, all those sponsorship people and so on. People forget that traditionally British theatre was very well-managed. For some

really matters REVIEW

What

THE BUSH, LONDON

THE PIECE de résistance of Charlotte Jones's compellingly quirky new play is a tap-shoe shuffle to "I Could Have Danced all Night", performed by Annie, an elderly strokevictim with Alzheimer's. If it seemed even momentarily exploitative, the effect would be disastrous. But Annie's moment of glory is so little out of step with the batty behaviour of the other characters, that it feels both daft and touching.

In Flame confirms what Jones's first play, AirSwimming, suggested: this 30-year-old playwright - a former actress - has a peculiar talent for a dramatic locale where the pitiful and the prattish converge. It's a talent well served by Anna Mackmin's superbly paced and acted production.

Staged in a white, minimalist interior, it juxtaposes two sets of lives from opposite ends of the century and country - Thackley, Yorkshire in 1909 and London, 1999. Given the arrangement of the narrative, this might seem a dangerously schematic interpretation, but the underlying interest in the frustrated hopes of successive generations of women is strikingly inconclusive, carefully reluctant to frame things in terms of progress.

Scenes are fleeting, like the snapshots taken at Thackley Fair in the play's pivotal scene. For the women photographed, these are recorded moments of doomed happiness -Livvy and her "idiot" sister, Clara, both seduced by the roguish photographer, Frank, whose fake Italian accent spuriously promises broader horizons than those of their hard-bitten, disapproving Gramma. For Alex, a cartographer in her mid-thirties weighed down by her relationships with her mother Annie, whom she has placed in care, her moany flatmate Clootie, and Mat - a married man - the yellowing family prints she's discovered provide a vaguely consoling source of identification.

Most of the roles are doubled up with the cast swiftly and deftly negotiating between the two eras, with l'ones' clipped dialogue amusingly. expressive of brittle, "making do" mentalities and seething jealousies. kept going without public subsidy for | This is most perfectly realised in hundreds of years. It's incredibly an-Rosie Cavaliero's combined tour de force as the skirt-tugging, oafishlygrinning Clara - and the hapless neurotic, Clootie.

Tim Hetherington

noying. Nobody minds working hard

but the Arts Council's 'tick the

boxes' culture is killing anybody

with any flair." He's thoroughly ex-

asperated. "You have to have man-

agement, of course you do. But I

resent being forced to jump through

all these hoops. Being told you're not

practical. How can you get a play

Unofficially, he's slightly nervous

about how his new play will be re-

ceived. "There's no rape and nobody

kills themselves," he says mock

gloomily. But in terms of the bigger

picture, he's surprisingly sanguine

about the future, thanks to the

resurgence in playwriting. "Whether

I like all these new plays is neither here nor there, it's the fact that they

haven't been seen off. People like

them. Playwriting is at the root of

British theatre. I exploded at some-

one the other day, explaining that

Shakespeare's Globe was a new

writing theatre. It's not some m-

'Certain Young Men' previews at the

Almeida, London N1 (0171-359 4404)

vention of the Arts Council."

written if you're not practical?"

Jones gives some of the lewdest one-liners to Marcia Warren's bilious Gramma/Annie. "Tuesday's child is full of shit," the latter snaps when Alex pays a visit. She is as subtly outspoken as Gramma, sniping at the hypochondriac duliard (Tom Smith: excellent) who has set his cap

The cruelties can, at times, seem contrived for our delight - just as some of the incidental speeches and plot points can seem interposed simply to give the actors more to chew on. But other moments have lasting poignancy

When at the end, the worlds merge and a gentle Gramma whispers to a sobbing defeated Alex. "None of it matters", the words have an extraordinary effect: a semiserious dismissal that fully acknowledges the seriousness of life and suggests that, finally, a sense of the ridiculous is our only weapon. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

To 6 Feb (0181-743 3388)

DEBUT: DAVID WESTHEAD

The role: Beelzebub in Actors Touring Company's Faustus The year: 1987

WHEN I left RADA at the age of 24 the RSC offered me a contract to play small roles and understudy, but I was convinced I was going to get a job at the Traverse in Edinburgh so I turned them down. Then the Traverse role fell through and I was out of work for four months, a situation that encapsulates what you go through as an actor - most of the time having to take difficult decisions, and making a balls-up of it.

But I got exactly the sort of job I was looking for in a threeman version of Marlowe's Dr Faustus by Mark Brickman that the Actors Touring Company were doing - which meant assuming a dozen guises, from the Pope to the King of

Touring is the most knackering kind of theatre you'll ever do, and we went to about 50 or 60 over three months. Once you've lugged the set in and put all the lights up, the show itself is a breather.



early on when we decided that there was far too much superfluous scenery knocking around and that we would conjure it in the audience's imagination rather than lug it in from the transit van. So the surgical skeletons that had been stuck on to sheets with gaffer tape were bundled away and not seen until we hit the Lyric Hammersmith. Ironically. on the press night the simplest part of the design - a table -

broke 25 minutes before the end. I had to keep whispering to the others not to climb on it. Luckily, the critics didn't seem to notice.

The performance that stands out for me, though, was in Hereford. It was at the local cinema - they took the screen up for the evening - and it was opposite Hereford United Fnotball Ground, Hereford happened to be playing Nottingham Forest that day. You couldn't hear a bloody thing because the crowd was making so much noise. There were only about 16 people in the audience. but that was some achievement. We raised our voices and persevered.

Somehow that evening brought home to me the fact that as an actor you learn most when you go to the audience rather than when the audience comes to you. You have to go out there and earn the right to be on their turf.

David Westhead stars as Robbie in 'Talk of the City'. previewing from 3 Feb. Young Vic, London, SE1 (0171-928 6363)

Bedfellows in bedlam

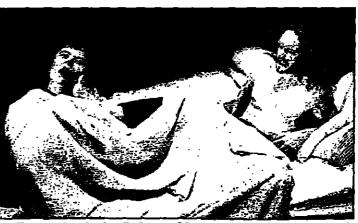
REVIEW

THE GLORY OF LIVING ROYAL COURT AT THE AMBASSADORS, LONDON

THE POTENTIAL trouble with American trailer-trash drama is that it will pander to an audience's worst impulses, inviting them on a tourist trip to a southern states bedlam where they can snigger, in safe superiority, at the morally subnormal. Rebecca Gilman's bracing, jet black comedy, The Glory of Living, never allows you that easy response, nor does Kathryn Hunter's production, which brilliantly reinforces the sense

of casual shock. We first meet 15-year-old Lisa (Monica Dolan) in her mother's mobile home chatting to Clint (Tony Curran), a jailbird twice her age. On the other side of a sheet strung across the room, his friend and her prostitute mother are having noisy sex. "She fakes it... she tole me." announces Lisa, an unstable cocktail of emotional damage, knee-hugging childishness and sullen precocity in Dolan's superb performance.

Then, in the space of about a minute's stage time, Clint and Lisa



Trailer trash: Monica Dolan and Tony Curran Geraint Lewis

have stripped one another, climbed a darkly witty flow, the actors shiftinto a motel bed and been propelled a couple of years forward. They are now married; he's been in jail again; she's had twins. You are just recovering from this series of jolts, when It is full of telling touches. For exthere's another. They aren't alone. ample, when Lisa decides to in-When Clint pulls up the handcuffed, unconscious body of an underage girl, it begins to dawn on you that Lisa is acting as his procuress and is not so much behaving morally as that when he needs to dispose of the evidence, he is careful to ensure that it's not his finger on the trigger.

ing scenes before your very eyes, as when a furious Clint simultaneously runs amok at being arrested and clears the set for the next episode. form the police anonymously about the corpses, her message begins as a voice-over, and this sense that she obeying disassociated voices in her head is strikingly apt.

The play brings out the dreadful yet pitiable confusion inside her. To 6 Feb (0171-565 5000) Hunter's production moves with

One second she is refusing to cooperate with the police; the next, she is so naively flattered that they recorded her calls to them, that she's all perky helpfulness. She is the baffling product of a sleazy world where it's considered "nice and familylike" to be more than two to a bed, of bad children's homes and of crap TV culture where the kindest thing you can say about your murder victim is that she looked like Joanie from Happy Days.

Was Lisa free to refuse to do Clint's bidding if she had wanted? The evidence is conflicting, Certainly there is a bleak integrity about her in the later stages that is preferable to her partner's rattily macho, self-serving cunning, so well communicated in Mr Curran's performance. Only the tentatively humanising bond at the end between Lisa and her lawyer (Lorcan Cranitch) as he teaches her how to play "Jingle Bells" on her toy piano, struck the one false, sentimental note. The rest, from the spot-on cast to the evocative set with its doors dangling on telegraph wires, is unreservedly recommended.



It's cheaper than you might think to arrange adequate cover for valuables, antiques or collectables, such as these Clarice Cliff plates

The art of insurance

Terrified of displaying your treasures? You don't need to be. By John Andrew

hil and Ruth had a dilemsured. Their home contents were covered by a standard household policy. Years ago the insurers had required an alarm to be installed and quality locks to be fitted to all exterior doors and windows. The couple had no problems with this, which they regarded as sensible security measures. But they did not like the restrictions on the value of certain items, mainly silver, which could be left out of their safe. And over the years this was increasingly ignored.

They were horrified to discover that after a burglary at the home of friends, the insurance company would not pay out because the teenage son had forgotten to set the alarm before going to bed. It then dawned on Phil and Ruth that despite paying hefty insurance premiums, in the event of their suffering a break-in their own cover was next to useless. Apart from being underinsured, they were also in breach of the terms of their policy because they had more than the permitted value of items in a display cabinet.

Realising that their situation was who can benefit from specialised high value of contents are less good 24-hour porterage in an ma. For years they had foolhardy they decided to take action cover. David Needham, of the inbeen collecting antiques, and approached an insurance surance brokers Needham Jobson, claims. They are also more likely to
and they knew that they broker with a company that had a considers that most people who be more security-conscious.

When choose the inblack can keep burof a maxi-ISA.

The annual savings allowance rates becoming
may be higher, but Tessas are less.
Philippa Gee.

When choose that they leave windows flexible than their replacements.

When choose tique and art markets. Instead of more could take advantage. being covered by a standard household contents policy, they were now their contents will inevitably include insured under a specialised valu- art and antiques," he says. Petty ables policy. Much to their surprise, criminals find consumer durables they were able considerably to increase their cover while reducing sequently the premiums for fine

"This is because at this level such as videos more appealing; con-

ing that the lower premiums for specialised cover mean a lower level of service. In fact, it is much higher than with a standard policy.

Whether arranged direct with an insurance company, or through an insurance broker, the client is

Since valuers can charge around £600 a day for their services, this does increase the outlay in the first year. However, even with this additional expense, specialist cover can still prove to be less expensive than standard cover from year one.

the house unsupervised, are more

cover of contents is on a system of

agreed values. This means that in

osses is met immediately and in full.

Although not a strict policy in all

cases, specialist insurers often

prefer the contents to be profes-

sionally valued in cases where there

is a high proportion of antiques.

the majority of cases, any claim for

With a specialised policy, the

likely to suffer losses.

writing Services Limited 01608 648000; Nordstern Art Insurance 0171-626-5001. Brokers: Needham Jobson & Co 0171-833-8340; Realty Insurances 0171-499-7874; HSBČ

Still time to let a Tessa tempt you

The Tories' tax-exempt savings vehicle is near the end of the road. By Rachel Fixsen

Individual Savings Account (ISA). that this will happen with Tessas.

ISAs, like Tessas, allow you to you can invest, but the limit for the cash element of an ISA - an ISA can also be used w hold shares and Tessa-only ISAs." insurance - is lower than the Tessa limit Savers can put up to £9,000 in a Tessa over its five-year term, while for the first year only after

It means not only can you save through the term. Tessa and ISA annual allowances.

"And when the Tessa does mature in five years' time, you can reinvest have to keep rates competitive," says the capital in an ISA, and that won't Paul Winter, who is the sales and affect your ISA allowance," says Philippa Gee, of the Shrewsburyers Gee & Company.

So if you want a cash investment, it is still worth taking out a Tessa,

advisers say.

"Particularly at the moment when the outlook for shares over the next 12 to 18 months is a little uncertain." advises Ms Gee.

When the Tessa matures, the capital but not the interest can be rolled over into a Tessa-only ISA. This will be a separate cash investment which will run alongside a marketing director at Ipswich. cash mini-ISA or the cash element

open or allow unknown workmen in | Once invested, the capital in a Tessa cannot be withdrawn until the fiveyear term is up. If it is, all of the interest for the full term becomes taxable. ISAs, on the other hand, can be instant-access accounts.

Most Tessas earn variable interest, which will probably fall over the next five years as the Bank of England cuts interest rates. But a few providers offer fixed-rate Tessas.

"This is certainly worth doing since we are in an environment of continually falling interest rates," says Philippa Gee. She recommends Abbey National's fixed-rate Tessa, which pays 5.5 per cent throughout the term.

There can be penalties for switching from one Tessa provider to another during the term. Some providers charge a fee, while others withhold up to six months' interest. Being effectively locked into a Tessa over the next five years could be quite a problem.

After April. Tessas will not be offered to new customers, making

TESSAS, OR tax-exempt special savings accounts, will vanish from the have been known to let interest market in less than three months. rates become uncompetitive on The savings account, brought in by the Conservatives in 1991, is due to be replaced on 6 April by Labour's accounts which are actively marnew tax-exempt savings vehicle - the keted to the public. Providers deny

"People will want to compete for reap tax-free interest on cash roll-over Tessas as and when they savings. They also place an annual mature," says Piers White, retail limit on the amount of new money banking director of Fleming Premier

However, it is still worth choosing one, where any penalty for switching is slight. Birmingham Midshires Tessa pays 6.85 per cent interest, but launch the ISA cash limit will be the penalty for transferring mid-term 53,000. After that an ISA only allows is the loss of 180 days' interest. This £1,000 a year to be invested in cash. could be as much as £190 half-way

more tax free with a Tessa, but anyone opening one of the accounts before April will be able to take advantage of the overlap between the two systems by gaining both Building Society requires only seven days' notice to transfer funds from one of its Tessas. "So clearly we'll

> Anyone opening a Tessa before April will be able to take advantage of the overlap between the two systems

Opting for a fixed-rate Tessa would give some security against The annual savings allowance rates becoming uncompetitive, says

-- When choosing a variable-rate Tessa, advisers warn against simply picking the institution at the top of the best-buy table. Piers White says that some providers are paying Tessa rates significantly above bank base rates, which means they are making a loss that they will be unable to maintain. He recommends opting for a provider with a record of paying good rates

across all savings products. Tessas are worthwhile only if they are held by taxpayers, since non-taxpayers do not have to pay tax on their savings. But Ms Gee says that couples sometimes seem to forget this, and it is the non-taxpayer who holds the Tessa.

The Dear Mark

Can Can

"It is great that people have become educated to put investments into the non-taxpayer's name, but not in the case of Tessas," she says.

Gee & Company: 01743 236982; Abbey National: 01908 344978; Ipswich Building Society: 01473 211021; Fleming Premier Banking:

With a specialised policy, the cover of contents is agreed – which means claims for losses are met immediately and in full

their premium. Furthermore, there art are lower. The savings can be were no restrictions on the value of items that could be left on display and they were also covered in the event of failing to set the alarm at night, or when leaving home.

Not only were there no annoying item being broken, the company would pay for its restoration and reimburse the difference between its value before and after restoration.

enormous. David Needham says: "In central London, with a standard policy, £100,000 of cover could cost as much as £1,550; with a specialist policy it could be as low as £200."

Insurance companies are in the restrictions, but, in the event of an business of making money, so how is it that more can be insured for less? The main reason is what the insurance companies call a reduced

quotation is given, the customer will be visited at home and their precise

requirements discussed. While this may sound like an unnecessary nicety, it allows for an assessment of an essential element - the Insurance companies: Cox Under insured's lifestyle. A home that has people living in it for most of the time is less likely to be broken into than one which is left unoc-"moral hazard". This is a polite way cupied during the day, at evenings It is not just antique collectors of saying that home-owners with a or at weekends. Similarly, a dog or Gibbs 0171-661-2386



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The great dividend dilemma

HELEN, 31, is a computer programmer and, having worked as a permanent member of staff since leaving university, she switched to contracting about six

Her first contract, for £1,200 per week, was for three months and this has just been renewed. She expects this to continue at least for another year or two.

Helen has bought a limited company "off the shelf" and the contract money goes to the company. On her accountant's advice she takes an annual salary of £6,000 and the rest is paid to her as quarterly dividends. This has the advantage of saving National Insurance (NI) contributions, which are payable on salary but not dividends.

She and her boyfriend have £2,400 for emergencies and holidays in a joint instant-access account. Helen also has her own account with the Nationwide and has built up £8,500 since she started contracting. Some of this money, however, will be needed to pay tax bills.

Helen's main concern is about pensions, She built up a respectable pension fund with her last employer (the only one to

provide a pension scheme) and has contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS). Now she needs to arrange her own plan and has come to us for a personal pension plan. She feels that she could easily afford £400 per month. We looked into Helen's company

scheme and the personal pension she used to contract out of SERPS (called a "protected rights" plan). We also checked the terms and rates of her savings accounts. Her company scheme was a

"money purchase" plan. This means that she and her former employer had paid into a pension fund and this would grow over the years and be used to buy an income in retirement. We reviewed the charges and the performance record of the investment managers who ran the fund.

For Helen's new pension contributions we hit an immediate - and not uncommon - problem. She is only allowed to put 17.5 per cent of her salary into a personal pension - dividends must be ignored. She could therefore only pay £87.50 monthly (17.5 per cent of £6,000) - much less than what she wanted to contribute and needed for a good level of income.

THE FIXERS



FIONA PRICE

One option would be for Helen to increase her salary to around £25,000 (and reduce her dividends accordingly). However, this would mean higher NI contributions.

Alternatively Helen could consider an executive pension plan (EPP). An EPP is similar to a personal pension in many ways you build up a pension pot with an insurance company and the charges are similar - but the contributions and benefits are different as it is considered an

employer's pension scheme. An EPP allows much higher contributions to be paid in by the employer, in Helen's case, around £175 pm. If she were to increase

her salary, to around £14,000, then she would be permitted to contribute £400 pm.

Having contracted out of SERPS, the Department of Social Security (DSS) was rebating some of Helen's NI contributions into a personal pension of her choice. Now her salary was much lower than before (as above, dividends are ignored), her rebates were significantly reduced.

We therefore needed to check whether it was still worthwhile contracting out - often this is not worthwhile on low salaries. We also checked the charges and performance of the plan. Helen's company scheme and protected rights personal pension were both good arrangements. The charges were low and the investment

performance had been excellent. We suggested that Helen increase her annual salary to around £14,000 in order to be able to pay £400 monthly into an EPP. This would mean she would have to pay extra NI contributions but would be able to save 40 per cent tax on her pension contributions. It also meant that her DSS rebates to her protected rights personal pension would increase from around £110 to around £450,

making it worthwhile continuing to contract out.

We selected a "level costed" plan where the charges are taken out evenly over the term of the plan. As there are no up-front charges Helen would not be penalised if she needed to stop, reduce or transfer her plan.

We gave serious consideration to recommending two schemes rather than one. However, she already had reasonably large funds with two other companies with her former employer's scheme and her protected rights personal pension - so we felt there

was already an adequate spread. Helen was pleased that her existing pensions and savings were doing well. However, she hadn't realised the implications of paying herself a low salary and taking the majority of her income in the form of dividends. Although tax efficient, this policy caused problems with her pension planning. With some advice, that problem has now been minimised

Fiona Price is managing director at Fiona Price & Partners, independent financial advisers, 33 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA (0171-430 0366)

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SDAY REVIEW

Budgeting for the future The new golf

The task of budgeting, usually seen in a negative light, can benefit from more effective software which emphasises the need for analysis of future trends. By Roger Trapp

"budget" is a dirty word. Widely perceived as a means for headquarters staff to control costs, the whole process of budgeting in a company inevitably tends to be seen in a negative light by managers who insist that they are given insufficient funds to do what they are trying to do.

But Hyperion Solutions, one of the key providers of business analysis software, is adamant that this does not have to be the case. Indeed, it believes that it can help add value to a much derided activity.

The company - created last summer by the merger of Hyperion and Arbor - recently carried out research in conjunction with Financial Director magazine and found that many companies were not gaining full advantage from the budgeting process.

This failure was attributed to

"procedural inefficiencies and a hancements goes beyond specific dearth of specialist IT systems capable of harnessing the potential of information contained in the budgeting process".

Hyperion feels it can help solve both problems. The means is "Pillar 4", the latest version of its well known software package for budgeting, planning and forecasting.

in don't

The product is, it says, "designed to deal with these problems enabling finance departments to use the budgeting process to improve efficiency and increase competitive advantage in the organisation, while reducing the time spent budgeting".

Tony Speakman, UK marketing director for Hyperion, sees giving managers "tools that are sharp enough to do the job" as a way of getting them to look upon budgeting more positively. If people at divi-sional level are able to "own" the modelling process, they are more

likely to spend time on it, he says. Moreover, increasing involvement in this way is also likely to reduce the mistakes that have traditionally blighted the credibility of budgeting exercises. The Pillar bers," says Mr Speakman.

most organisations, software has been available for a while, but this latest version should enable managers to see more clearly how their businesses fit within the overall corporation.

As Mr Speakman points out, the package has a "spreadsheet front end" to make it familiar to users. But "the value is in what underlies it". In short, Hyperion makes it easier for companies to carry out such tasks as remuneration planning. sales forecasting and manufacturing budgeting, as well as allowing for more sophisticated analysis of existing business and likely trends.

The company describes how such organisations as the financial services group the Halifax has used the system to reduce the time spent on collecting spreadsheets from a few days to as little as three-quarters of an hour, while Avon Cosmetics has seen it as a method of rationalising the budgeting and planning process.

But the real value of the enenhancements, argues Mr Speakman. Andrew Sawers, editor of Financial Director, explains that "the research drew a worrying picture of dissatisfaction with the budgeting process, and a lack of ability to utilise it properly into the business planning process".

In particular, it was found that more than half the time spent by a finance department on the budget is in the mechanics of putting it together, with only 27 per cent of the time spent on analysis and other means of adding value. If budgeting manages to shake off that onerous aspect and become a genuine way of looking at the prospects for the business - and the best means of serving them - it could shed its poor image. And if, by using Hyperion's packages and other technological developments, it becomes more attractive, it can be used to expand the business rather than just as a

"We're helping complex busi-nesses use technology to develop the business, rather than fight the num-

means of reducing costs.



The Chancellor of the Exchequer may ultimately call the tune, but skilled budgeting can make the best of a company's assets

YOU CAN annoy a lot of people at the moment just by humming "The Girl from Ipanema". Still, it seems fairly obvious that if you go around punting vast sums of money on an economy as stable as Brazil's, you've got to expect the occasional shake-down. I mean, if it were a person instead of a country, the bank manager would have stepped in long ago with the scissors and cut up the credit card. But there you go: if you're going to borrow, it's always easier to do it on an epic and totally unrealistic scale.

Luckily, things seem a little calmer this week, even if the FX boys still wince at mention: of Rio, so there's been the odd moment for chatting. Things have brightened up on the personal front ever since Olivier decided to believe the story - importantly, the true one - of how Jaap's watch found its way to my bedside table, and having clambered out of my pit of despair I'm able to notice what's happening around me.

Findlay, our resident mathematical genius, is normally a quiet type with an arid sense of humour, prone to making odd little comments in such a quiet voice that it takes a few seconds before you realise he's said anything at all, and a few seconds more before you realise how funny it is. I imagined he spent his spare time playing chess or writing computer code, but it seems I am wrong. For Findlay has taken up hang-gliding.

"It's excellent. You really should give it a go," he enthuses. "It's so peaceful up there. All this lot" - he waves at the screens around us -*seems very insignificant." Laura and I wince at each other. The thought of hanging from a kite several hundred feet from the ground doesn't appeal much, and I'm surprised Findlay has taken it up. Then I remember it's practically compulsory these days for a single man with a



The Trader

City career to take up at least one life-threatening sport. "I can't say I'm in any hurry to join in," I tell Laura. "I'd spend the whole time thinking about Icarus instead of becoming one with the wind, as Findlay puts it."

"Except that Icarus flew too close to the sun." Laura replies. "This is Britain. remember. You'd be perfectly safe most of the year. Mind you, if you flew too close to Beachy Head, you'd probably find some distraught trader and that wouldn't be much fun." And we settle down to consider some of life's mysteries, such as why you'd work 14-hour, high-stress days so you could retire early and then risk all of it by taking up some dodgy activity like rappelling or hang-gliding

"Adrenalin junkies," I say. "They get so hooked on the stuff because of work that they need more and more excitement outside as well. So they play heart-pounding computer games and throw themselves off mountains at any opportunity." We murmur sagely about how clever we are not to spend our money in such a rash way, when the head of trading appears round the

corner on one of his rare visits. "Findlay!" he vells, "You'll be joining us all hang-gliding again this weekend, I hope?" Laura and I look mournfully at each other. Dangerous sports: they're the new golf.

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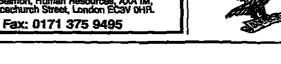
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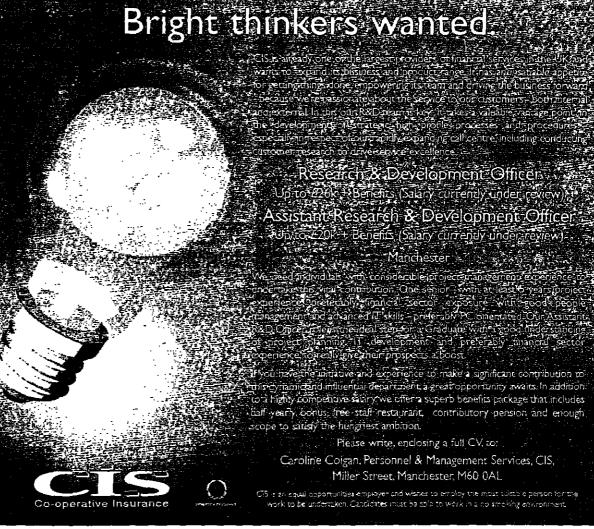


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Closing Date: 15th February 1999.

the SNP had only

7 per cent of the

vote and were

generally seen as

itters and extremists; we used to

Il them the Scotash Nose-Pickers.

vas always political, and joined the

ung Conservatives while at

hool because I was impressed by

natcher's belief that everyone

could stand on their own two feet.

Gradually I made my conversion.

plying this philosophy to the

ottish people who, I believed,

ould stop blaming the English for

erything and learn to take power

ick into their own hands. After the

sappointment of the 1992 general

ection I joined an organisation

lled Scotland United and became

tite radical. I chained myself in

otest to the Scottish Stone of Des-

ly in Westminster Abbey and a

ar later, after the budget, did the

me thing to the gates of Downing

reet. Afterwards Alex Salmond in-

ed us for a drink in the House of

mmons. He likes people with a

t of get up and go and non-

jectives are so radical?

nformity; why have conservative ople working for you when your

The SNP are revolutionaries.

want to change the destiny of 5 illion, but those who try to claim

ks with us on the basis of racial

rity or some Braveheart fluff are

issing the point entirely. I'm not

nationalist, I am an inter-

tionalist. Trainspotting was a

gely influential film for my gen-

ation; our hearts stopped when

heard Ewan McGregor's char-

ter say that he hated the Scots for

e fact that they allowed someone

e to colonise and rule them. It

isn't an anti-Scottish or anti-

itish message; it was just the

While working as a guide on the

ouls and Ghosts tour in Edin-

rgh I was asked to join the SNP

their press officer, who heard my

e-and-brimstone account of the

innibal of Canongate, the story of

my who was eaten alive the day

2 Union was signed. Since I was

dving 18th-century Scottish his-

v. I worked for the party on a vol-

tary, part-time basis. One of the

st things about Alex is that he

ith, and it made us think.

The change in Scotland What the chauffeur sa has been amazing

I WORK FOR...

STEPHEN NOON IS PA TO ALEX SALMOND MP, THE LEADER OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY



Stephen Noon: 'Alex has great personal charisma and loves hearing other people's opinions'

for him and then got a job in his shopping trip with his wife, for exoffice at the House of Commons after graduating.

Alex is a great motivator because you know that however hard you work, he is working barder. He will blaze at you for two minutes if you have done something wrong, but then it's forgotten. He also has a way of finding out what's going on in the office by leaving pauses which he knows you will fill. In your anxiety to fill the slience you can end courages his staff to look for wise to this trick new.

ent in his young supporters. He ked to meet me and let me ther to him during a taxi ride to rived he had offered me the job he also encourages you to challenge ka year out of university to work people's opinions, and during a have to change from a wee family

ample, he may spend two hours aking to people in the streets. He's able to dominate every room he walks into and he has great personal charisma. I even got a letter from a young chap complaining that his girlfriend had a massive crush

on Alex - apparently she wouldn't

stop talking about his beautiful

brown eyes. Since the '97 referendum there's been an amazing change in Scottish up confessing everything, but I'm attitude and confidence. When you are in opposition you never really He has another annoying habit have successes, so to have a leader of asking a question he knows that who actually wins something gives within 10 to 15 years Scotland will image of myself as an MP meeting to the dictators. part-time personal assistant. I him. He loves hearing other be independent, and the SNP now my constituents at a club.

firm to an international company.

I enjoy the fact that I never know

what's going to happen each day. I try to get in at about 8am, I read the papers, open the mail, talk with journalists, constituents and MPs. write several press releases and deal with the mechanics of booking taxis and lunches and briefing for debates. I usually dou't leave until about 8pm and I sometimes work weekends, which means that it's almost impossible to have a social life or a relationship.

I do occasionally go on a bender, clubbing for six hours as a means of escape. Some MPs like to go to

I'm still just a wee laddie of 27,

yet already I've had the opportunity to change the most important piece of Scottish legislation that there's ever been. If the SNP wins next year I would hope that my ideas would still have access to Alex.

Politics excites me, but there are many other things I'd also like to do with my life, such as return to South Africa where I spent some time working for an anti-apartheid Catholic organisation. I was brought up by Jesuits and was deeply influenced by liberation

My heroes are the priests of El Salvador who were prepared to

INTERVIEW BY KATTE SAMPSON

chauffeur saw

PAUL THE chauffeur and I have struck up a bit of a friendship, mostly because we spend a lot of time sitting around with mugs of coffee in the kitchen waiting for Oscar, who always calls for the car an hour before he really needs it. I wasn't sure about Paul at first - thought he was pretty dour -- but that's mostly because I've never had a friend with a ginger moustache before, and I gather now that a ginger moustache is almost compulsory if you want to join The

Regiment, which I think is the phrase that a particular type of soldier uses to avoid saving "SAS". Paul's over 40 now: he got out of The Regiment nearly a decade ago and set himself up as a chauffeur-bodyguard and security adviser.

"Fing is," he says, "iss all abaht ego, innit?"

"What do you mean?" Wew," says Paul, who was born in Romford and joined the army at 16 as an alternative to a life of petty crime, "people like Mr Katz darn need someone like me – vey womp der full monty so vey can tew vare mates. Borin' for me, but iss mahney, innit?"

"So arze it going wiv der

pussy of der year, ven?"
"Yeah, OK. All the girls in the club have been topping up their sun tans, and Leeza spent too long in a booth and practically set fire to herself. I don't think she'll be sitting down for a week."

"Not much good for a lap-dancer, is it?"

"No. She was planning to make a raid on the team from The Sun and get herself on Page Three, but I think she's going to be confined to a pole for the duration instead. "Got any celebs?"

"Ooh, loads. We've got half the staff of Ginger Productions, that bloke who used to do the game show with the custard pies, two blokes who used to do the afternoon shows on Radio 1, and the guy who fathered Michelle Collins's baby in the sitcom about singing telegrams."

"You done well, there, girl. Got ver full A list." He twinkles his eyes at me as he buries his nose in his mug. Oscar pops his head round

the door. "Paul," he says, "After you've dropped me off, can you come back here and take Trina

"Sure, boss," says Paul. "What time do you fink I'll be getting off tonight, by the way?"



THE TEMP

"Oob," says Oscar, "About half a lemon." He closes the door and goes off to primp his hair in the bathroom. This takes some time, as you need to allow 10 minutes for each layer of spray to set

before adding another. "Well," says Paul once the door has closed, "That's Trina out of a job, then."

"How d'you know?" "Same every time," says Paul. "New girl turns up, Mr Katz picks her out, has her on his arm for publicity photos for a month, gets his end away. Then he savs to me, take her off to the jeweller and let her pick out anything she wants. The next night, she comes in to the club all happy, like, and gets given her cards. I've seen it a million times."

I get chills.
"But that's awful."

"Too right. But they fall for it every time." "It's tantamount to

prostitution." Well," says Paul, "That's the

racket they're all in, innit?" "God, that's terrible. Someone should do something about it."

"Don't worry," says Paul, "I have. After the fourth time I'd had some poor dip in the back of the limo, dreaming about her future as the fourth Mrs.Katz. and seen what happened the next day, I went down to the jeweller where he has his account and found out what the most expensive thing they sold was. Rolex Oyster. So now, when I'm taking yer Trinas and Trixies off on their shopping expedition, I roll down the window and tell them exactly what's going on and exactly what to buy. They cry and wail and I give them tissues, and there's mascara all over the upholstery, but every single one has taken my advice. They're not stupid, these girls. They know they're going to need summat to tide 'em over.'

This unlikely knight in shining armour polishes off his coffee, sighs with satisfaction, puts the 80 grand so far," he says. "Tm hoping to get to at least 100 before he catches on."

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For further information about this post please contact Chire Gould, Business Support Manager to the Medical Director on 0181 772 2013.

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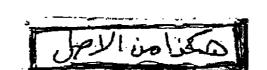
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For further information about both these posts, please contact Suzette Miller. Business Support Manager on Q181 682 6305.

Closing date for applications: 3rd February 1999

Recruitment packs and application forms are available from the Human Resources Department, Pathfinder NHS Trust, Springfield Hospital, 61 Glenburnie Road, Tooting SW17 7DJ. Tel: 0181 682 6452 (24 hour answerphone).

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NEW FILMS

BUTTONERS (KNOFLIKARI) (NC)

Director: Petr Zelenka Starring: Jiri Kodet, Borijov Navratil

ONESDAY REVIEW

Skipping without warning from pre-Bomb Hiroshima to the present-day Czech Republic, Zelenka's curious little portmanteau piece dovetails sad and all implicitly concerned with notions of forgiveness, community and social tolerance. Inevitably, Buttoners is a mixed bag, saddled a smattering of awkward, amateur-night performances. Still, no matter: Zelenka's droll good-humour and airy idiosyncracies ensure his film is emphatically more treat than trick. West Trocadero End: ICA Cinema

DOBERMANN (18) Director: Jan Kounen

Starring: Vincent Cassel, Tcheky Karyo

Vincent Cassel's born-to-be-bad gangster struts and sneers his way through a gleamingly abstracted Paris. Tcheky Karyo's bad-egg cop looks on balefully. Big guns go off, red sportscars cruise down open freeways, and lilylivered bystanders blub like babies. So this is what the new French cinema is all about: endless stylised carnage and iconic posing, plus a script that's going nowhere fast. Kounen's en-plein-visage actioner comes with the thumbprints of Reservoir Dogs and Luc Besson all over it. But there's no wit, no urgency - no nothing, really, beyond a few neat set-pieces and lots of gurning overacting. Kounen goes a bundle on sudden zooming close-ups. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro. Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

MEET JOE BLACK (15) Director: Martin Brest

Starring: Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins Picking his way through Brest's under-

developed overhaul of 1934's Death Takes a Holiday goes Brad Pitt's aquiline Grim Reaper. who gets chaperoned round the everyday

delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins's dving billionaire. The introductions complete. Brest throws in a romance (between Pitt and Claire Forlani's soulful debutant), a few airbrushed life-lessons, then leaves his tale to drift along for close on three hours. So while a set of six short-stories, some wacky, some Meet Joe Block has a few neat themes, and a reliably solid turn from Hopkins, it's too much a picture of disparate pieces, each played out to their individual lengthy agendas, with no glue with some duff Forties period details plus in the middle, just vapour. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin

> THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18) Director: Don Roos

Starring: Christina Ricci, Martin Donovan See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner

SOUR GRAPES (15)

Village West End

Director: Larry David Starring: Craid Bierko, Steven Weber

TV wisdom has it that Seinfeld slumped after co-creator David bailed out of the show. Trouble is, the man's feature-length writingdirecting effort is no great shakes: a Seinfeldian comedy of urban neuroses hingeing on the familial spat between Craig Bierko's jackpot winner and the cousin (Steven Weber) who lent him the coins to play the slot-machine. The dialogue is honed and witty, the situations generally funny and tightly rendered. It's just that Sour Gropes slowly runs out of breath the further it pushes past the 25-minute length. The insistent score and over-eager acting take on an increasing whiff of desperation. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, shooting from the lip and causing all kinds of havoe when she moves in with her mild-mannered brother (Martin Donovan). Director Don Roos's script bristles with acidulous one-liners.

The Truman Show (PG)

Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey), it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

 π (15) Darren Aronofsky's début (right), filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indic movie fearlessly combines Wall Street. Jewish mysticism and

nightmarish headaches.

Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast features Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely war hero and opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Terrific fun.

The Dream Life of Angels (18) Erick Zonea's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elotic Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier).

whose friendship comes alive amid the drab

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Invention of Love

(Theatre Royal, Haymarket) A witty, heartbreaking fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend, To 6 Feb

Kafka's Dick

(Piccadilly Theatre) Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival, To 26 Feb

Copenhagen (Cottesioe)

Profound and haunting meditation by Michael Frayn on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)

An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanovstyle production. In rep to 4 Mar

Martin Yesterday (Royal . Exchange, Manchester) Marianne

Ellion directs this sharp new play from cult

RIQ CINEMA

Canadian dramatist Brad "Unidentified Human Remains" Fraser (above). To 6 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)

Photographs 1994-98: wide-vision, high-finish, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see. To 7 Mar

Grinling Gibbons (V&A)

The finest chisel-work of the master 17th-century woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan

Chris Ofili

(Whitworth Gallery, Manchester) This upbeat, 1998 Turner Prize-winner creates dense, decorative paintings with swirls of dots. eyes, Afros, black icons and balls of elephant dung, To 24 Jan

Bridget Riley (Abbot Hail Gallery, Kendal)

A small retrospective, spanning Riley's career as top British abstractionist - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame, to colour, stripes, diagonals, curves. To 31 Jan

Oppé Watercolour Collection (Fitzwilliam Museum,

Cambridge) Classic 18th- and 19th-century British watercolours, including Alexander Cozens' blosderived sketches, and works by John Sell Cotman, Constable and Francis Towne (right). To 24 Jan



TOM LUBBOCK

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

in the down-and-dirty landscape of inner-city Edinburgh, and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

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See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Seventeen-year-old Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious début stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. This is a luminous, extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. West End: Piaza, UCI Whiteleus

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18) See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Suriss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

«Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to Bandit Queen is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over crueity. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Minema, Odeon rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's army renegade.

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse. probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. A big. noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Comden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid Jane Horrocks perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations when she falls in with Michael Caine's sleazy impresario. Though bitty at times, Little Voice is redeemed by bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Caine. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End. Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Parent Trap catches Disney reheating its 1961 heart-warmer into a cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-I winth twin sisters determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG) together. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage

π (PI) (15) See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinemo, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks stories of Irvine Welsh, The Acid House plays out. honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocadero

Gus Van Sant's shot-by-shot Psycho reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, and Anne Heche for Janet Leigh. Meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic; a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever adding up to much more besides. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town. Odeon Kensington. Odeon The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-andmiss affair. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village

THE SIEGE (15)

A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, The Siege winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The plot gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

SITCOM (18)

Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The débuting French film-maker is clearly a man of talent, but, in Sitcom, he lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores. Ozon takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is sharp, savage and funny one moment and indulgent the next. West End: Curzon Minema, Curzon Soho

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, insurrection hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more comball romance than we're used to. The nominal story sees Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Ahraham, who's hatched a scheme to take over a planet of perpetual youth. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road,

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15) Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a softcentred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexeptionally bland cake. West End: ABC

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)

Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

The immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, To Have and Have Not has come to be more regarded for its behind-the-scenes history than its narrative content. Bogart is the Martiniquebased skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. West End: Curzon Soho

See The Independent Recommends, right, West

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

ABC BAKER STREET

<u>CINEMA</u>

WEST END

environs of Lille.

ABC PANTON STREET ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) © Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm,
5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days
of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm My Name
Is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm,
6pm, 8.25pm 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) O Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath (II Bagno Turco Hammam) 1.25pm. 3.50pm. 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something about Mary 1.05pm. 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402)

Clare Fottenham Court Road Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams 1.05pm, 3.40pm. 6.05pm, 8.30pm

(0870-902 0403) & Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Eel (Unagi) 4pm, 8.40pm The Governess 1,45pm, 6.25pm On Connait 1,45pm, 6.25pm On Connait 1a Chanson 1pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm La Vie Revee Des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 1.25pm 2.45pm Angels) 1.25; 6.25pm, 8.45pm 1.25pm, 3.45pm,

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

(0870-902 0414) → Tottenham Court Road Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.25pm π (PI) 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.20pm, 9.25pm, 7.20pm 7.30pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) → Moorgate/ Barbican Little Voice 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Opposite of Sex 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) → Sloane Square Little Volce 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Dobermann 2.45pm. Spm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Opposite of Sex 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 5.45pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) → Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Elizabeth orner/Knightsbridge 2.30pm, 6.3 4.50pm, 8.50pm 6.30pm Sitcom

CURZON SOHO Old Table 1 (1975) Old Table 1 (⁷.10pm, 9.20pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) &

& Castle Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Meet Joe Black 3.30pm 7.25pm The Slege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

Meet Joe 12noon, 3.45pm, 7.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm. 50m, 8.30pm Psycho 12,45pm. 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) & Notding Hill

Gate # (P1) 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm

(0990-888990) O Leicester

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) & Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Meet Joe Black 12.50pm. 4.30pm, 8.10pm The Siege 12.45pm. 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm

ICA CIMEMA (0171-930 3647) BR/& Charing Cross Buttoners (Knoffikari) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Carnival of Souls 8.30pm

(0171-734 1506) ← Piccadilly Circus/Lecester Square The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm (not Wed), 9pm Dobermann 2pm. 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705-050007) ⊕ Camden Town
Dobermann 12.35pm, 2.35pm,
4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm
Enemy of the State 12.30pm,
6pm Little Voice 12.45pm,
3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm
Psycho 3.30pm, 9pm The
Siege 12.15pm, 2.45pm,
5.20pm, 8.25pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 12noon, 2.20pm,
4.40nm, 6.50om, 9pm 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

ODEON HAYMARKET Piccadilly until further notice.

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) O High Street Kensington Enemy of the State 12noon, 3pm, 6.05pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.55pm, 10.5 mask of 2010 2.55pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Meet Joe Black 12.45pm, 4.40pm, 8.35pm Psycho 1.35pm, 9.40pm The Siege 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.20pm. 7pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 4.30pm, 8.25pm Psycho 1.25pm, 6.35pm The Sign 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm Star Trek:

Insurrection 3.55pm, 9.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705-050007) O Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.50pm. 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm There's Something about Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE 08705-050007) Cottage Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Land Girls 1.15pm, of the State Opm, 5.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm Little Voice
1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,
8.45pm The Mask of Zorro
2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Meet
Joe Black 12.15pm, 3.50pm,
7.30pm Psycho 8.40pm The
Siege 12.30pm, 3.10pm,
5.50pm, 8.25cm Siege 12.30p 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) & Leicester Square Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

Pepsi imax cinema (0171-494_4153) O Piccadilly Everest 12,35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm Back Cretaceous (3-D) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 11,30am. 5.45pm. 8pm, 10.05pm

(0181-444 6789) ♦ East Finchley Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0990-888990) & Piccadilly Circus Babe: Fig in the City 12.45pm. 3.25pm Out Of Sight 5.50pm. 8.25pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm. 7.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 130pm 4pm 5.20pm 9pm 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

(0171-837 8402) & Russell Square The Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 2.15pm. 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

(0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Closed refurbishment. Re-opening July

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/& Brixton (0171-733 2229) BR/-Θ Brixton The Acid House 4.15pm. G.45pm. 9.15pm Enemy of the State 4.35pm. 9.25pm Little Voice 12.55pm. 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm. 9.30pm On Connait la Chanson 2pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm π (Pi) 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm, 7.10pm 2.25pm, 7.10pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) & Baker Street Little Volce 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm The Opposite of Sex 2.25pm, 4.30pm. 6.40pm, 8.55pm SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) ← Angel/ Highbury & Islington π (Pi) 3.05pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm SCREEN ON THE HILL 3.10pm. 7.10pm, 9.10pm

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn The Fountainhead Thu 3pm Little Volce 6.30pm, 8.45pm (+ Short: Kings of Siam with 8,45pm performance only) UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) ⊕ Bayswater/

Queensway Enemy of the State 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm State 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Uttle Voice 3.40pm, 6.30pm,
8.50pm The Mask of Zorro
3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Meet Joe
Black 4.40pm, 8.30pm The
Opposite of Sex 4.10pm,
6.40pm, 9pm The Prince of
Egypt 2.40pm, 5pm Psycho
7.20pm, 9.40pm The Siege
4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Star
Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm,
7pm, 9.20pm 7pm, 9.20pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) Sloane Square/South Kensington Dobermann 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD 4.30pm, 8.15pm The Opposite of Sex 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm The Prince Of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm Star Trek: Insurrection 8.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET Circus My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm. Circus 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 0.13pm, 8.45pm Psycho 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm What 2pm, 6,10pm, 8.35 Dreams May 5,15pm, 8,15pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) & Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.30pm, 4.20pm, 8pm Out of Sight 6.15pm, 8.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.10pm Rush Hour 6.30pm, 9pm Sour Grapes 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1 pm, 3.60pm 1pm, 3,40pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END

(0171-437 4343) & Leicester Square The Acid House 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm Blade 9.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.50pm. 6pm. 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm. 5.50pm, 9pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, Negotiator 11.40am, 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Opposite of Sex Ipm. 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 1.400pm 9.10pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Sour Grapes 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.50pm, 3.30pm. 6.35pm, 9.05pm,

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) © Park Royal Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Meet Joe Black 1.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.50pm My Name is Joe 7.40pm The Parent Trap 12.35pm, 3.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.20pm Psycho 10.10pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 10pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 6.10pm

BARNET BARNET
ODEON (08705 050007) & High
Barner Enemy of the State
12.25pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black
12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm Psycho
8.55pm The Siege 1pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: insurrection 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm

ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Enemy of the State 2pm. 5.30pm, 8.15pm Meet Joe Black 1.20pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 5pm Psycho 8,30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1,10pm. BEXLEYHEATH

BECKENHAM

CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550)
BR: Bedeyheath Enemy of the State 12.20pm. 3pm, 5.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Fire 3.15pm, 9.50pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 1.45pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm, 9.30pm, 9.30 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Meet Joe Black 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm Mehndi 5.15pm The Parent Trap 1.30pm, 4.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 5.25pm Psycho 7.35pm The Siege 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm

BROMLEY ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South Enemy of the State 12.45pm 6pm Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Meet Joe Black 12.15pm, 3.50pm, 7.35pm The Siege 3.25pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford. Enemy of the State 2.40pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Siege 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6pm

CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/East Little Voice 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm (+ Whoosh) WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Enemy of the State 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1pm, 4.50pm, 8.40pm My Name is Joe 7.10pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.10pm The Prince of Egypt 2.20pm, 4.40pm Psycho 9.40pm Rush Hour 9.50pm The Siege 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm.

4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm What Dreams May Come 7pm DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 Enemy of the State 12.40pm 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 12.30pm, 4.30pm, 8.30pm My Name is Joe 8.40pm The Parent Trap 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm Psycho 9.50pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm What Dreams May Come 6.10pm

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Enemy of the State 8.40pm Little Voice 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8,30pm Meet Joe Black 12.50pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm Star Trek; Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm

EALING

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tottenham Hale Antz
4.30pm Babe: Pig in the
City 4.50pm Enemy of the State
3pm, 6pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm,
9.45pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa
Kaate 9pm The Land Giris 5.45pm
Little Voice 3.50pm, 6.20pm,
8.50pm The Mask of Zorro
3.15pm, 6.25pm, 9.30pm
Meet Joe Black 4.05pm, 7.50pm
The Opposite of Sex 3.25pm,
5.55pm, 8.30pm The Parent
Trap 3.10pm, 6.10pm The Prince
of Egypt 3.30pm Psycho
4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm Rush
Hour 7.15pm, 10pm The Siege
4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Stat
Trek: Insurrection 3.40pm,
6.35pm, 9.05pm What Dreams
May Come 8.40pm

EDMONTON

FEITHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Enemy of the State 1.15pm, 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 7pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Hum Aapke Hain Koun.! 11am. 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4pm, 6pm. 7.30pm, 9.30pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.10am, 2.40pm, 6.10pm. 9.40pm Little Voice 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 3pm. The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Meet Joe Black 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm The Opposite of Sex 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7mm, 4.30pm, 4.30pm, 7mm, 4.30pm, 4. 7pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap 7pm, 9.30pm The Parent Trap 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 5pm Psycho 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 8pm, 10.15pm The Slege 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 6.30pm Zakhm 3pm, 8.55pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & East Finchley/Finchley Central Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm Meer Joe Black 1pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm My Name is Joe 7.20pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 4pm The Prince of Egypt 1.50pm, 430pm Psycho 9.50pm Rush Hour 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Siege 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm, 5tar Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm,

FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) © Finchley Road Enemy of the State 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 4.20pm, 7.10pm, 10pm Meet Joe Black 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Psycho 10.20pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Sour Grapes 7.45pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 2.10pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 10.10pm What Dreams May Come

4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) ← Golders 2.45pm, 7.25pm GREENWICH

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Little Voice 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm My Name is Joe 8.50pm Star Treic Insurrection 4.50pm, 8.50pm

2.30pm, 5.15pm

HAMPSTEAD Park Enemy of the State 8.15pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 3pm, 7.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection. 2.40pm, 5.50pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-425 0303) Harrow on the Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Doll Salake Rakima 5pm The Soldler (Asian Film) 1.30pm Zakham 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) O Harrow on the Hill Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm. 9pm Little Voice 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.40pm, 5.35pm, 8.30pm Meet loe Black 1pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm Meet loe Black 1pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm My Name is loe 6.55pm The Opposite of Sex 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 4pm The Prince of Egypt 1.55pm, 4.15pm, Psycho 9.10pm Rush Hour 9.30pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705-050007) & Hol-loway Road/Archway Enemy of the State 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm The Mask Zorro 2.15pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 4pm. 7.40pm Psycho .05pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 9pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm The Siege 12,25pm, 3,10pm, 6pm, 8,45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1,15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & Gants Hill Dancing at Lughnasa 5.50pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 8.10pm Little Voice 1.50pm, 4.10pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 12noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm Psycho 8.40pm The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm

ISLE OF DOGS THE SPACE ARTS CENTRE (0171-515 2453) DLR: Mudchute Death

KINGSTON ARC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Meet Joe Black 2.15pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.05pm

ODEON (08705-050007) ← Highgate Enemy of the State 3.45pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 4.10pm. 4.10pm, 7.40pm The Siege 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 6.20pm

PECKHAM PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006)
BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the
State 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm,
9.15pm Meet Joe Black 4.55pm,
8.30pm My Name is Joe 7pm
Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm
Rush Hour 9.10pm The Siege
4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Star
Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 5pm Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 5pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Meet Joe Black 7.10pm The Slege 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm, 8.30pm

PUTNEY ABC (0870 9020401) & Putney Bridge, BR: Putney, Enemy of the State 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black Ipm, 4.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond Little Voice 2pm, 4,20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Meet Joe Black 12,20pm, 4,30pm, 8,20pm The Siege 12,40pm, 3,20pm, 6,20pm, 9,10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/⊕ Richmond Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm Psycho 6.30pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm,

RCMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 8.10pm Meet Joe Black 2.20pm. Meet Joe Black 2.20pm, 7.20pm Psycho 2.30pm, 5.55pm. .25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm. 5.40pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Enemy of the 8 30pm The Land Girls 6.30pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm. 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro .15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Meet Jo Black 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm Psycho 4.15pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 8.50pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm.

SIDCUPABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Meet Joe Black 3.15pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.30pm Star Trek: STAPLES CORNER

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Crick-lewood Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm Little Volce 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

et Joe Black 12.45pm. 4.30_l 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm, 4.40pm Psycho 8.45pm Rush Hour 7pm, 9.20pm The Siege 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366)

BR/Ø Stratford East Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8pm Psycho 4pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2pm. 6.30pm STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 1.40pm Meet Joe Black 3.40pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.50pm Psycho 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm. ODEON (08705-050007) BR:

Streatham Hill/O Brixton/Clapham Common Enemy of the State 12.10pm. 2.55pm, 5.40pm. 8.25pm Little Volce 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm Rush Hour 6.35pm, 8.45pm The Slege 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm **SURREY QUAYS**

UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey Cuays Babe: Pig in the City 4.50pm Enemy of the State 3.10pm. 6pm. 8.50pm Little Voice 4pm. 6.10pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 9pm Meet Joe Black 4.20pm, 8.10pm Psycho 7.05pm, 9.40pm The Slege 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.10pm.

6.50pm, 9.30pm SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Suton√⊖ Morden Enemy of the State 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Little Voice 3.40pm. 6pm. 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.55pm, 6.45pm Meet Joe Black 4.25pm, 8pm Psycho 9 45pm The Siege 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm

TURNPIKE LANE ORONET (0181-888 2519)

• Tumpike Lane Emerny of the State

spm. 5.45pm, 8.20pm Meet Joe

Elack 3.30pm, 7.25pm Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm

ODEON (08705-050007)
O Uxbridge Meet Joe Black 12.15pm, 3.50pm, 7.25pm The Siege 5.50pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.10pm, 3.25pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamstow Central Enemy of the State 8.10pm Meet Joe Black 2.10pm. 7.20pm The Siege 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 5.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Lit-He Voice 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 3pm, 7.15pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham The Mask of Zorro 4pm, 8.10pm Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) O Willesden Green Bade Dilwala (phone for details) The Prince of Egypt 4.45pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 6.45pm, 9.15pm WILLEL FOON

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Mimbledon/& South Wir Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm The Stege 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) South Woodford Enemy of the State 8pm Meet Joe Black 2.30pm, .30pm Psycho 2.20pm, 6.10pm, 3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) O Turnpike Lane Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2pm, 8.45pm Zakhm 5.30pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek:

CINEMA REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Sitcom

(18) 8.30pm ICA CINEMA The Mail SW1 (0171-930 3647) Buttoners (Knofilkari) (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Carnival of Souls (18) 8.30pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) The Horse Whisperer (PG) 2.30pm, 8pm in a Lonely Place (NC) 6.10pm Don't Look Back (NC) 7.30pm From Broadway to Hollywood: Museum Special Event (NC) 7.30pm The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant (18) 8.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) Little Voice (15) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Dead Man's Curve (15) 1pm Twilight (15) 3.45pm The Wedding Singer (12) 6.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) The Bandit (Eskiya) (U) 6.30pm + Hamam: The Turkish Bath

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176) Little Voice (15) Spm, 9pm Out of

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) Titanic Town (NC) 2pm π (Pi) (15) 4.15pm, 8.50pm La Messa e Finita (NC) 6.30pm

CUBE CINEMA (0114-907 4191) Wild Angels (NC) 8.30pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) The Acid House (18) 5.45pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm, 8.35pm Metal-lica Untitled (NC) 8pm CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)

Sitcom (18) 12.30pm, 5.30pm Dobermann (18) 2.30pm, 9.20pm Fire (15) 7.15pm CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222 399666) The Acid House (18)

2.30pm, 8.30pm Dancing at Lugh NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Déja Vu (15) 2pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.30pm

IPSWICH IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Henry Fool (18) 6pm. 8.30pm Out of Sight (15) 6pm. 8.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Marquise (15) 5.45pm The Truman Show (PG) 8.15pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BASINGSTOKE WARNER VILLAGE (01256-818739): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): The Flintstones (U): Little (15): The Flintstones (U): Little Voice (15): The Mask of Zono (PG); Meet Joe Black (12): Mulan (U); My Name is Joe (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15); Rush Hour (15): The Siege (15); Small Soldiers (PG): Star Trek: insurrection (PG); What Dreams May Come (15)

MILTON KEYNES UCI 10 (01908-661662); Antz UCI 10 (01908-661562); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy of the State (15); The Land Girls (12): Little Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Meet Joe Black (12): Pardeshi Babu (NC): The Parent Trap (PG); Paulie (U): The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15); Small Hour (15); The Siege (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Star Trek: Insur-Soldlers (PG); Star Trek: Insur-rection (PG); Velvet Goldmine (18)

WARNER VILLAGE (01923-682244): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15); The Flintstones (U): Little (15); the Hintstones (0), active Volce (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Meet Joe Black (12); Mulan (U); My Name is Joe (15); The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U); Psycho (15); Rush Hour (15); The Siege (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); What Dreams May Come (15) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

THEATRE WEST END

DALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence Gleigud Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50 £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views). 130 mins.

■ AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-5at 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, E7.50-£30, 180 mins.

● ANNIE Rags to riches story of the nauseatingly optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/© Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

) ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairytale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins. ● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-

sell's long-ruming Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 1733) 9 Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 4pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins. • BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930

8800) & Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday es. 160 mins. ● CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems.

New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins.

● CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broad-way musical. Adelphl Maiden Lane, WCZ {0171-344 0055} ◆ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins. ● THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson.

Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ← Picc Circ. Tue 8pm, £6-£25, 120 mins. ● DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield stakes to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-son Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6

(0171-416 6022) O Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins. FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) → Picc Circ. In reptonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30.

O THE GLORY OF LIVING Drama set amongst the trailer parks of southern America from new playwright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ◆ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 6 Feb, £10, concs £5.

● GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-494 5080) ◆ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,30pm. [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins. **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christo-

pher Cazenove and Susannah York pner Cazenove and Susaman York star in Peter Hall's production of Wilde's comedy, Lyric Shaftestorry Av-enue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins. AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen

Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-494 5085) @ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, Upper circle £12.50-£29.50, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Southern and Lapine's musical based on fairy tales. Donmar Warehouse Earth Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) [4][7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE TOTAL Stoppard's play about the life of po-et AE Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lod. Theatre Royal. Haymarket Haymarket, SWI [0171-930 8800] & Picc Circ, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm,

JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

O KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's comedy about the moribund writer Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm, ends 26 Feb. £12-£30.

) LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EU-NUCHS Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Cornedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 13 Mar, £7-£27.50.

O LORD OF THE FLIES Stage version of William Golding's classic tale of schoolboys living on a deserted island. Lyric Hammer-smith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 6 Feb, £5-£16. THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julie Sawalha

star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊕ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, £8-£27.50. LES MISÈRABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-terpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-161). 494 5060) → Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm. £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumnit, St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) O Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm. 131 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket. SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. PRENT Musical inspired by La Bo-

hème and set in modern day New

York, Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mlns. ▶ RECHARD III Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) ♦ Charing X/Embank-

ment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm,

F10-F27.50.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE: OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen
Oliver's music accompanies the tale
of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up,
with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep today 2pm & 7.15pm,
and 20 Feb

● COTTESLOE: Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor in rep today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 5 Apr 150 mins. Olivier: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. NT2000: £4, conts £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000).

THE BARBICAN: Measure For sure Stephen Boxer stars espeare's pointed examination justice. In rep tonight 7pm.

● THE PIT: Bad Weather Robert Rolman's revealing examination of the breakdown in family relationships. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barblcan Theatre: £5-£27. The Pit: £12-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbi-

) SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Palladii 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

OTHE SNOWMAN Award-winni production of Raymond Briggs' con-temporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical revamped for the 1990s. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SWI (0171-416 6070) BR/& Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm. £12.50-£30. 150 mins.

● THE STREET OF CROCODILES Bruno Scultz's short stories provide the inspiration for eatre de Complicité's acclaim and absurdist drama. Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) \(\theta\) Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 8pm, [7] 3pm, [1] 5pm, ends 20 Feb, £6-£25.

linda Lang stars in Alan Ayckhourn's WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) [5][7] 3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mins. ● VASSA Howard Davies directs

) THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-

a new stage version of Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and her downtrodden family. Albery 5t Mar-tin's Lane. WC2 (0171-369 1730) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] pm, Tonight 7pm. ends 27 Mar. 25-£29.50.

• THE WEIR Conor McPherson's accalimed drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊕ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins,

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 1. [7] 4pm. £8.50-£23.50.

THEATRE **BEYOND THE WEST** END

ARTS THEATRE Krapp's Last Tape Edward Petherbridge performs Samuel Beckett's melancholic piece. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Fri & Sat 5.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-£12. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334) → Leic Sq.

BUSH THEATRE In Flame Charlotte Jones' new drama about the plight of the 1990s woman. Mon-Sat pm, ends 6 Feb, £10, concs £7. Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) @ Shepherd's Bush.

TRICYCLE THEATRE The Colour of Justice Drama isation of the Stephen Lawrence case. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-£13.50. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn.

YOUNG VIC STUDIO Special Offer A couple play out their rela-tionship in a real display bedroom. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. ends 23 Jan. £8, concs £6. The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) BR/O Waterloo.

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

RASINGSTOKE HAYMARKET THEATRE Corpse Ian Targett and Ian Lindsay star in this high-camp comedy thriller about a penniless actor who contrives to a per murder his wealthy twin and assume his lifestyle. Mon-Thur & Sat 7.45pm, Fri 6pm & 9pm, ends 6 Feb. £9.50-£15.50, concs available. Wote Street (01256-465566)

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call FOLLOWING A SERIES of self-out stand-up shows at the Edinburgh Festival in recent years, Aussie comedian Mark Little (right) turns his attention to the battle of the sexes. The ex-Neighbours actor's latest venture is to bring Rob Becker's one man comedy show, Defending the Caveman, to London In this West End transfer, Little demonstrates a witty catalogue of recognisable human traits, which some would say have remained unchanged

since prehistoric times. Apollo Theotre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London SW1 (0171-494 5070) opens 9 Feb

BLACK STAR LINER are widely acknowledged as an upand-coming Asian band. The Leeds based trio took their name from a passenger shipping company, set up by Marcus Garvey in the 1940s, which aimed to provide black Americans with a free passage to Africa. Their music is an adventure to modern sound, using an invigorating mix of deep dub basslines with more traditional Punjab cross-rhythms and chants.

Loughborough University (01509 632011) tomorrow; Honey Club, Brighton (0990 344444) 24 Jan; Jazz Cafe, London NW1 (0171-344 0044) 25 Jan

THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Paul Bradley from East Enders stars alongside Only Pools and Horses' John Challis. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. £6-£16, concs availble. Sawclose (01225-448844)

NEW VIC STUDIO Freebird Jon Ivay's black comedy about three motorcyle couriers on a mission to Cornwall. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, ends 30 Jan. £9, concs £6. King Street (0117-987 7877)

THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose Panto about the fabled fowl. Tonight 7.15pm, ends 30 Jan. £3-£16. King Street (0117-987 7877)

CHICHESTER CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Joseph and the Amazing Techni-color Dreamcoat Tim Rice and An-drew Lloyd Webber's musical version of the Bible story. Mon-Thur 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 5pm & 8pm. ends 23 Jan. £6.50, concs available.

Oaklands Park (01243-781312) GUILDFORD YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Sleuth Peter Bowles and Michael Maloney star in Anthony Shaffer's ingenious and inventive thriller. Mon-Thur 7.45pm. Fri-Sat 8pm. mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends

30 Jan. £13,50-£20.50, concs available. Millbrook (01483-440000) HORNCHURCH QUEEN'S THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Kool Kool Kat Favourite songs from the 1960s and 1970s accompany this inter-galactic panto. 20 & 21 Jan. 6.30pm, 21 & 23 Jan. 2.30pm, 22 & 23 Jan, 7.30pm. £6.50-£13. Billet Lane (01708-443333)

WOLSEY THEATRE The Norman Conquests: Table Manners Alan Ay-ckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is accidentally folled. 20 & 23 Jan. 2.30pm, 20-22 Jan. 7.45pm. 23 Jan. 8pm, phone for prices. Civic Drive (01473-253725) NORTHAMPTON

THE DERNGATE Girls' Night Out Heanight comedy by Dave Simpson. 20 & 21 Jan. 8pm. 22 & 23 Jan. 6pm & 9pm. £11-£14.50. Guildhall Road (01604-624811)

PETERBOROUGH KEY THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Fabulous Cat Thrilling ad venture story full of comedy, musiand magic. 20 & 23 Jan, 4.30pm & 7.30pm, 21 & 22 Jan, 2.15pm, 23 Jan, 1.30pm, 24 Jan, 3pm & 6pm. £5.75-£9.75, concs available. Embankment Road (01733-552439)

DETERSEIEI D BEDALES OLIVIER THEATRE The Life of Edward II of England Brecht's version of Marlowe's study of the powers corrupting influence Tonight 7.30pm. £6, concs £4 Church Road (01730-304253)

PLYMOUTH THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Gladiator Scorpio and Su Pollard climb the giant beanstalk 20-23. 26-30 Jan. 2.30pm & 7.30pm. 24 Jan. 3pm. £6-£15.50. Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

PRINCESS ROYAL THEATPE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Gladiator Fox stars as the baddle. Spirit in the Mirror. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mats Sat. 2.30pm. £5.75. concs £4. Civic Centre (01639-763214)

READING THE MILL AT SONNING Two Dozen Red Roses Comic love story set in romantic Rome. Tue-Sat 8.15pm. mats Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb £21.95-£32.95 including dinner £21.95-E32.95 including dinner, Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000) SOUTHAMPTON

MAYFLOWER THEATRE Goldflocks and the Three Bears Frank Bruno, Karl Howman and Emily Symons in this star-studded panto. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 14 Feb. £7.50-£17.50. concs available. Commercial Road (01703-711811) STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Namia classic. Today 1.30pm & 7.15pm, ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623) SWAN THEATRE Troilus and Cres sida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by

ends 20 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623) GRAND THEATRE Cinderella Starring Melinda Messenger and Steven Houghton. Today 2.15pm & 7.15pm. ends 31 Jan. £6.50-£12.75, concs available. Singleton Street

(01792-475715)

bloody warfare. Tonight 7.30pm

THEATRE ROYAL Motive Kate O'Mara and Clive Mantle star in this murder mystery which, unlike the average whodunnit, lacks a motive. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thur 2.30pm Sat 4.45pm, ends 6 Feb. £6-£25, concs available. Thames Street (01753-853888)

EXHIBITIONS

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SO-CIETY All Zones Off Peak: Tom Wood Photographic representation wood Pathographic representation of his journeys. Mon-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm, ends 24 Jan. £2.50, cones £1.75. The Octagon Galleries, Milsom Street (01225-462841)

BRISTOL ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians: Contemporary Art and a Nine-teenth Cenury Vision Includes Mat Collishaw and Helen Chadwick Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan. free_Narrow Oxay (0117-929 9191)

CAMBRIDGE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM The Society of Three: Whistler, Fantin-Laety of Infree Whistiet, Fantas-La-tour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints ex-amining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Ends 14 Feb. British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including Turner and Constable. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 24 Jan, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

CHELTENHAM CHELTENHAM ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM At The Sign of the Rain-bow: Margaret Calidn James (1895-1985) Retrospective of designs, calligraphy and paintings. Mon-Sat 10am-5.20pm, ends 23 Jan. free. Clarence Street (01242-237431)

EXETER ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MU-SEUM Designs on Life: Edward Bawden Wide variety of work by the prominent graphic designer Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 23 Jan, free. Queen Street (01392-265858)

LONDON BRITISH MUSEUM The Golden Sword: Stamford Raffles and the East Art and artefacts exploring the life and work of the founder of Sin gapore. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 12noon-6pm. ends 18 Apr. £4, concs £2. Great Russell Street. WC1 (0171-636 1555) Square/Tottenham Court Road.

NATIONAL GALLERY Luca Signoreill in British Collections Draw-ings and paintings by the artist who influenced Raphael and Michelangelo. Ends 31 Jan. In the Light of Fra Angelico: Zanobi Strozzi Study exhibition ex-ploring the paintings of the 15th century artist. Mon & Ive, Thur-Sun

10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 7 Mar, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) ← Charing Cross, NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

British Sporting Heroes Tracing sport in British culture from the 18th-century to the present. Ends 24 Jan. £4, concs £3. The Art of Cooking: Barry Marsden Photographs of chefs displayed in the cafe. Ends 1 Apr. free. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 6 Apr, free. St Martins Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055) ← Charing

TATE GALLERY Art Now 16: Something is Missing - Jean-Marc Bus-tamante Installation exploring nternational cities in photographs Ends 31 Jan. Turner in the Alps Works on paper made on Turner's first Alpine trip in 1802, Ends 14 Feb. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 28 Feb. free. Millbank. SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊕ Pimlico.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Grinling Globons and the Art of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th-century woodcarver Ends 24 Jan. Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramshaw Precious metal jewellery. Ends 15 Feb. Elsewhere - Photographs from the Americas and Asia: Henri Cartier-Bresson Lesser-known subjects by the 90-year-old photographer. Ends 12 Apr. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm. ends 31 Jul. £5, concs £3. UB40/disabled/mems/ after 4.30pm free Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8441)

OXFORD
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Nineteenth Century French Drawings Recent acquisitions alongside familiar major drawings. Ends 28 Feb. Chinese Silks Brightly coloured 18th and 19th-century hangings. Ends 28 Feb. The Painterly Brush Oil sketches duting from the 16th to the early 20th

2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free, Beaumont Street (01865-278000) **PORTSMOUTH** ASPEX GALLERY Comfort of Little Places Installation by Permindar Kaur, Tue-Frt 12noon-6pm. ends 20 Feb, free. Brougham Road

century. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun

ST IVES ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm. ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

(01705-812121)

SWANSEA GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes Twenty-three puintings and drawings by the Venctian artist. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 14 Mar, free, Alexandra Road (01792-651738/655006)

CLASSICAL

EASTBOURINE CONGRESS THEATRE London Phil-harmonic/Marshall 20th century works with a jazz undercurrent. Tonight 7.30pm. £9-£15. Compton Street (01323-412000)

LONDON Queen Elizabeth Hall Westminster Philharmonic Orchestra/Humphris Settings by Grainger with extracts from Gershwin's Por-gy and Bess. Tonight 7.45pm. £6-£16.50. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

WIGMORE HALL Henschel Quarter Two Mozart Piano Concertos re-duced to quintet dimensions. Tonight 7.30pm. £8-£16. Wigmore Street. W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

OPERA

LONDON LONDON COLISEUM La Traviata Verdi's great Realist tragedy in Eng-ish National Opera's acclaimed stag-ing. Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632, 18200). 8300) O Leicester Square/Charing

LYRIC STUDIO Vanessa Samuel Barber's opera receiving a belated UK premiere from the Other Theatre Company. Tonight 8pm. £10-£13, concs £5. King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith.

DANCE

LONDON PLACE THEATRE Resolution! Lon-SAFFRON WALDEN don's important annual platform sea-son. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 13 Feb. £8, FEASTING AND FASTING EXHI-BITION A look at food and drink

ROYAL ALBERT HALL Cirque Do mbats, aerial artists and fire dancers umravelling a dizzying and enchant-ing narrative. Tue-Sun 7.45pm, mats Sat & Sun 2.30pm, ends 24 Jan.

SADLER'S WELLS Sankai Juku in Shijima Sankai Juku returns after a seven year absence with a sensual, meticulously choreographed work. Tonight 8pm. £7.50-£35. Rosebery iue, EC1 (0171-863 8000)

LITERATURE

MODERN FRENCH CULTURE Discussion group focusing on the work of Jean Cocteau and his lover Jean Marais, who died in November Borders Oxford Street W1 (0171-287 1592) & Oxford Circus. Tonight 8pm, Free. KAZUO ISHIGURO The award win-

ington. Tonight 6.30pm, free. COMEDY

ning novelist reads from his work. Institut Francais Queensbury Place SW7 (0171-838 2144) South

BRISTOL STUDENT COMEDY NIGHT AT JESTERS COMEDY CLUB Marcus Brigstocke, Irish funnyman Kevin Hayes, Ben Norris. Tonight 8pm. Cheltenham Road (0117-909 6655)

LONDON
THE COMEDY STORE The Comey Store Players with Neil Mullarkey, Andy Smart, Richard Vranch, Stephen Frost, Jim Sweeney, Carla Mendoca, Tonight 8pm, Oxendon Street, SWI (01426-914433/cc 0171-344 4444) O Piccadilly Circus, £11, NUS £7.

LIVEWORKS STAND-UP AT THE DOGSTAR, FIRST FLOOR The award winning Adam Bloom, Mark Kelly, Stuart Murdoch, James Cook, MC Simon Evans. Tonight 9pm, Coldharbour Lane, SW9 (0171-737 3177) BR/- Brix-

CLUBS

BRIGHTON GOGGLEZ AT THE TAVERN CLUB With Paul Langley and Justin Berkovi. Tonight 10pm-2am. £1. Castle Square, Lower North Street (01273-325684)

LONDON STARSKY AND HUTCH UPSTAIRS AT RONNIE SCOTT'S Popular 1970s Ar Konanic Scott a Popular Isros disco, funk and rare groove night Tonight 10pm-3am, Frith Street, W1 (0181-654 0523) & Leicester Square, E6, NUS £4, mems £3.

ORGANISED SOUND AT THE CLIN-Control Nina's awesome DJ Vadim and Attica Blues-man Charlie Dark Tonight 10pm-4am, Genard Street, W1 (0171-734 9836) O Leicester Square, £7, £5 w/flyer,

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LONDON
TWENTYTWENTYONE Large scale
sale of original and collectable pieces.
20/21 Upper Street NI (0171-288 1996) & Angel, Tue-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm, ends 23 Jan, prices vary.

BEAD BAR Wide range of beads available to create Valentine gifts. The Art Workshop Rosemont Road NW3 (0171-431 5696) & Finchley Road. Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, cost of materials.

ART99 Contemporary art fair with works offered for sale by a wide range of galleries, plus START, an area de-voted to the work of young British-artists. Business Design Centre Upper Street N1 (0171-359 3535) Angel. Wed & Thu I lam-6pm, Fri

& Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 24 Jan, £10, adv £8.50. ACROBATICS FOR ADULT BE-GINNERS An opportunity to discover your acrobatic abilities, whatever your age Drill Hall Arts Centre Chenies Street WC1 (0171-637 8270)

Goodge Street. Wed 7pm 9pm. ends 24 Mar, £70, concs £50.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL Exciting and eclectic the-atre and events, including perfor-mances by French, Russian and Italian companies, as well as those from the UK London International Mime Festival WC1 (0171-637 5661) Ends 24 Jan, phone for details.

WINTER ENIGMA FESTIVAL FOR THE NEW AGE Palm reading, demonstrations, children's events, competitions, book signings and exhibitions. Whiteleys Shopping Centre Queensway W2 (0171-229 8844)

Bayswater/Queensway. 10am-12midnight, ends 31 Jan, prices vary.

through history Saffron Walden Museum Museum Street (01799-"510333) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2:30pm-5pm, ends 14 Mar, £1,

MUSIC

ERISTOL MERCURY REV US cosmic rockers tour their acclaimed album, Desert-er's Songs. Fleece & Firkin St. Thomas Street (0117-927 7150)

Tonight 8pm, £7. LONDON THE BLUETONES, DELGADOS. SIX BY SEVEN Jangling indie rock headliners, plus Glasgow lo-fi de-constructors and Nottingham trance rockers in support. Astoria Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £9.

TEMPLE OF SOUND, JOLT Ex-Transglobal Underground mem-bers Neil Sparkes and Count Dubuah headline. The Borderline Manette Street W1 (0171-734 2095) O Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8.30pm, £5. GARBAGE Shirley Manson and her

shady US cohorts: Wembley Arena Empire Way, Wernbley (0181-902 0902) & Wembley Park, Tonight 8pm, £16.50. OXFORD UNKLE, IDLEWILD, DELAKOTA, LLAMA FARMERS NME-sponsored tour headed by James Lavelle's star-studded beats project. Brookes Uni-versity Students' Union London Road, Headington (01865–484764) Tonight 8pm, £8.

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

LONDON JOHN RENBOURN, DORIS HEN-DERSON, DAVE SUTHERLAND, MARTIN BROWN Folk-jezz fusion guitarist headlines. 12 Bar Gub Den-Tlark Place WC2 (0171-916 6989) Tottenham Court Road. Tonight
 8.30pm, £7.50.

MOSE ALLISON TRIO Whimsical singer-pianist from Mississippi. Piz-za Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) & Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 8.30pm, £12.50. PATRICIA HODGE/STEVE

ROSS/SHERIDAN MORLEY Spho-isticated cabaret revue entitled Three's a Crowd. Ptzza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Comer. Tonight 9.15pm & 10.45pm \$20. adv £18. 9.15pm & 10.45pm, £20, adv £18. TARAF DE HAADOUKS Celebrational Romanian gypsy ensemble. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1

(0171-439 0747) & Leic Sq. Tonight 9.30pm, £15, mems £4. GIRL TALK With Barb Jungs, Claire Martin and Mari Wilson. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington. Tonight 9pm, £8.

MAIDSTONE MADSTONE
JOHN COLLIANI/BUCKY PIZZARELLI Buoyani swing pianist with
legendary mainstream guitarist. Pizza Express Earl Street (01622683548) Tonight 8.15pm, £12.50.

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.8-99.8MHz FM 6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Cive Warren. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Blue Jam. See Pick of the Day. 1.00 Gilles Peterson, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)

ONESDAY REVIEW

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6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stew-art. 5.05 Johnnie Walker: Including news, views, music, the Mystery Voice Competition, sport and regular travel updates. 7.00 Nick Barraclough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show: Andy Peebles presents the ninth of 13 programmes exploring the world of soul music from the 50s to the present day. 10.00 Route 66 Revisited: Nick Barraclough presents a seven-part series in which he travels across America exploring the history and cultural significance of Route 66. 10.30 Richard Alinson, 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3 (902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11,00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Pur-

1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Choral Evensong. 5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Grant Llewellyn, Dalla Jones (mez-zo). Hoddinott: Welsh Dances: Suite No 3. John Metcalf; Museum of the Air (first performance). Beethoven: Symphony No 3 in E flat (Eroica). 9.10 Postscript. 3: Monet in London'. The Savoy Hotel may seem an unlikely place in which to retrace the steps of a bohemian artist, but Monet was aiready well established and wealthy when he made a series of visits to London at the beginning of this century, painting the Thames from the balcony outside his room Fand reveiling in the various qualities

of the London fog. Tim Marlow, edi-

tor of Tate magazine, and art histori-

6.00 Moby Dick (1997) (160575). 8.30

Napoleon and Samentha (1972) (76579).

10.00 Cocoon: the Return (1988) (43372).

12.00 Moby Dick (1997) (76372204), 2.25

4.00 Cocoon; the Return (1986) (9795)223).

(50590310). 7.30 Barry Norman's Firm Night

(6827). 8.00 Absolute Power (1997) (55092).

10.00 Carrmer Man (1996) (672759). 11.35

The Crossing Guard (1995) (800730), 1,25 Dead Man Walking (1995) (81488402), 3,30 - 6,00 If Lucy Fell (1996) (807150).

7.30 UK Top Ten (46020), 8.00 Fernmes

Emma (1996) (26056). 1.00 UK Top Ten

(33556). **1.30** Fernmes Fatales (8148391) See Pick of the Day. **2.15** Movie Magic

leagues down the Amezon (1994) (21594).

5.00 American Hot Wax (1978) (22391).

7,00 Emma (1996) (54049). See Pick of the Day. 9,00 Lethal Tender (1996) (54321). 11,00 House of Frankenstein:

Part 1 (1997) (56778), 12.30 A Nightmane

710 American Hot Wax (1978) (88487841).

on Elm Street (1984) (611470). 2.05 The

Kremin Letter (1970) (637624), 4.05 A Switch in Time (1987) (5105518), 5.35 -

4.00 Flesh and Fury (1952) (8754556).

6.00 The Magnificent Ambersons (1942)

(7132469). **8.00** The Big Red One (1980) (7137914). **10.00** Hang Em High (1968)

(8043339). **11.55** Two for the Road

(1967) (9498223), **1.50** Days of Glory (1944) (39126537), **3.20** The Directors

(291953?). 4.20 Too Many Girls (1940)

6.00 The Century of Cinema: Typically Paritish (8724049), 735 Outrageous Taxi Stories (3382885), 8.00 Dead of Night

(1983) (9448001). **12.00** Nikita (1990)

(7138088), 2.00 The Crow (1994) (1013570). 3.45 - 6.00 The Man without

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures

(1694575), 4.30 Walker's World (1690759).

5.00 Flightline (1137440). 5.30 History's Turning Points (1614339). 6.00 Animal Doc-

tor (1804952), 6.30 Secrets of the Hump-back Whale (2091662), 7.30 Beyond 2000

a Face (1993) (48357179).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

(1945) (7029488). 10.00 The Dead Zone

(97651334). **5.45** Close.

FILMFOUR

SKY CINEMA

(3697643). 3.00 Jules Verne's 800

Zatales (48339). 8.30 Movie Magic 30310). 9.00 Jules Verne's 300 Leagues down the Amazon (1994) (88894). 11.00

SKY MOVEMAX

5.55 Legend of the Ruby Silver (1996)

9.25 Music for Organ. David Sanger plays a selection of French music at Exeter College, Oxford - on a modem British organ in the great French romantic tradition. Langials: Incanta-tion pour un jour saint. D'Indy: Prelude in E flat minor, Op 66. Franck: Piece heroique in B minor. Mulet: Rosaces (Esquisses byzantines). Vierne: Toccata in B flat minor

an John House trace Monet's Lon-

(Pieces de fantaisie: Suite No 2). (R) 10.00 Ensemble. A recital by the young German violinist Isabelle Faust given last December in the Wigmore Hall, London Introduced by Penny Gore, who talks to the violinist about her early years. Isabelle Faust (violin), Ewa Kupiec (piano). Mendelssohn: Violin Sonata in F (Adagio). Prokofiev: Violin Sonata No.

1, Op 80 10.45 Night Waves. Monet's paintings are among the most familiar and widely exploited of any artist's work, so can the Royal Academy's new exhibition offer any new insights or a fresh interpretation? Patrick Wright and guests discuss 'Monet in the 20th Century'. Plus first-night news from the opening of 'Vassa': Howard Davis directs Sheita Hancock in Gorky's comic portrait of a powerful matriarch. 11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (924-946MHz FM)

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Michweek.

PICK OF THE DAY

"HERE COMES the prating eddy round more outré comedy gravy-muncher. See him scold his shadow, raise his hat to lamp-posts - and out you run to argue with a bus". Welcome back to Blue Jam (12mdn't RI), Chris Morris (right) and his third series of broadcasts from the solitary confinement of his deranged genius. The usual Jabberwocky-like mutterings and psychedelic samplings

sketches specially calculated to spark complaints.

Perhaps Dr Anthony Clare can shed some light on the Morris complex: today sees a new series of All in the Mind (4pm R4), in which the clinical professor of psychology at Trinity College, Dublin, probes current mental-health issues. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

9.45 Serial: tris. (R)

1L30 Choice Grenfell

100 The World at One.

3.45 This Sceptred Isle.

4.30 Thinking Allowed.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2:15 Afternoon Play: Goodbye

3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question

4.00 NEWS; All in the Mind. See

6.30 Like They've Never Been

735 Front Row. Mark Lawson with

the arts programme, including the

verdict on a controversial new film

7.45 Lady Susan. Drama: "Lady Su-

san' by Jane Austen, adapted by

Lavinia Murray. With Harriet Walter

8.00 NEWS; Them and Us. Diana

Madili presents a series which lets

8.45 Gerry's Bar. Gerry Anderson

with further reflections on life in Ire-

Sight. into Mind'. In the first of a six-

land. 2: "Ego and the Tube".

9.00 NEWS; Frontiers. 'Out of

you have your say on the current hot

and Maggie Steed (8/10).

dramatising the life of the cellist

12.57 Weather.

3.30 The Vale.

Pick of the Day.

Jacqueline du Pre.

topics of the day.

5.00 PM

Gone, (R)

1.30 Board Game.

Medicine.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

1L00 NEWS; Murder, Magic and



see a thing. 9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and 10.00 The World Tonight. With

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana, By Emile Zota, read by Juliet Stevenson (13/15).

the Butter Factor. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort.

5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 • 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

part series, Peter Evans investigates the curious phenomenon known as blindsight, in which an unsighted nerson can be shown to react accurately to events before their eyes even though they insist they did not

guests engage in lively conversation.

1L00 NEWS: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery. Sean Lock, winner of the Time Out Cornedy Award, presents a comic view of life from his tower block flat. With Kevin Eldon and Hattie Hayridge. 11.15 For One Horrible Moment. 11.30 The Cheese Shop Presents -

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News.

(198kHz)

TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Justice with Jacobs. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale, 12,00 lan Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

THE SUPER-GRANDMASTER tournament at Wijk aan Zee on the Dutch coast is getting into its stride. Following two rounds and a rest day on Monday there was already a clear leader in the shape of Viswanathan Anand on 2/2, ahead of Topalov, Kasparov, Shirov and Kramnik on 1.5.

1,009 voters from many countries, of

whom 490 voted for Anand to win.

followed by Kasparov 249, Shirov 112.

Kramnik 67, Ivanchuk 42 and the

rest 16 or fewer. As I wrote on Fri-

day, I'd go for one of Kasparov,

Anand and Kramnik, with Ivanchuk

Shirov and Svidler having some

chances. And just two rounds have

changed little (though if pressed I'd

certainly plump, about 50-50, for one

Perhaps the most interesting

game so far was the draw, in just 22

moves, between Kasparov and

Ivanchuk. Almost invariably a pow-

erful force in the opening, Kas-

parov is particularly strong in the

Exchange variation of the Queen's

Gambit Declined (QGD), in which he

has a massive score against world

Ivanchuk's choice was therefore

calculated daredevilry. The first

critical moment came when Kaspar-

ov avoided the endgame after 6 e3

Bf5!? 7 Qf3 Bg6 8 Bxf6 Qxf6 9 Qxf6

gxf6, with 6 Qc2. 7 ... Na6 aims to ex-

ploit this but in the diagram the nor- 11 Nge2 h6

mal 12 ...Be7 13 Ng3 Bh7 14 Bd3 12 Bf4

of Anand and Kasparov).

class opposition.

10.00 Littlejohr. Football phone-in with Richard Littlejohn: 0500 909693. Before the kick-off, the anglo-11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick phone Argentine Michael Green-Robinson. Including a late news brief gard, who writes on the World Wide ing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial Web under the name of Mig, carried World Tonight and a topical late-night out a survey (on Mark Crowther's discussion. 100 Up All Night Home Page http://www.chesscenter. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. com/twic/twic html). In three days. this admirable exercise enticed

CLASSIC FM

12.00 The Midday News.

7.30 Five Nations Rugby Night, Nick

Mulins and guests look ahead to the

Five Nations championship, which starts this weekend. Plus the Nation-

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

al Lottery Draw.

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: Glazunov: Piano Concerto No 1 in F minor. Stephen Coombs, BBC Scottish SO/Martyn Brabbins 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9,00 Evening Concert: Brahms: Two Songs, Op 91. Sarah Walker (soprano), Paul Silverthome (viola), Roger Vignoles (piano). Mahler: Das Lied von der Erda. Jessye Norman (so-prano), Siegfried Jerusalem (tenor), Berlin Philharmonic/James Levine.

Brahms: Alto Rhapsody, Marjana

rus, Berlin PO/Claudio Abbado.

Lipovsek (mezzo), Emst-Senff Cho-

11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest.

10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jarerny Clark. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Live). 2.00 The World Today.

2.30 Everywoman 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

7.40 The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half

Hot, Murn (1509310), 8.20 The Cornecty

Alternative: Yes, Minister (3399372). 9,00

ench and Saunders (5110643), 11.35

(1426976), 12.35 Backup (4460222), 1.30

One Foot in the Grave (4413117), 9,40 Jonathan Creek (75835049), 10,55

Alight Voice (18894353). 2.45 - 7.00

Shopping with Screenshop (52647570),

6.00 Tiny and Crew (49456049), 6,20

Philbert the Frog (29332136), 6-30 John-

son and Friends (64130952). 6.45 Tiny Tales (17564469). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts

(5812285). **7.30** Calliou (5742778). **7.35**

Bug Alert (6882914), 7.55 Practical Par-

(17578662). 7.00 Practical Parenting

(5838204). **7.05** Professor Bubble

The BW (7740561), 12.05 The Bill

1 11

C.

Bxd3 15 Qxd3 looks better for White. The point of Ivanchuk's rather extraordinary 12 ... Nd7 was, if I've understood, revealed two moves later, when if 14 Bd3 g5 15 Be5 f6 16 Bg6+ Ke7 White doesn't seem to get nearly enough for the piece.

I suspect that if he doesn't find an improvement earlier. Kasparov will look at 15 e5 or, more likely, 15 f3!? trying to maintain the centre. After 16 ... Qxd5!, White had to force matters. 18 ...0-0-0 effectively acquiesced in a draw - other moves are extremely risky. And Kasparov was forced to take the perpetual check.

> White: Gary Kasparov Black: Vassily Ivanchuk

QGD Exchange Variation 1 d4 d5 (see diagram) 2 c4 e6 12 ...Nd7 3 Nc3 Nf6 13 Ng3 Be6 4 exd5 exd5 14 e4 Nb6 5 Bg5 c6 15 exd5 Nxd5 6 Qc2 Na6 16 Nxd5 Oxd5! 7 e3 Nb4 17 Bc4 Qxg2 8 Qd2 Bf5 18 Qe3 0-0-0 9 Rc1 a5 19 Bxe6+ fxe6 10 a3 Na6 20 Oxe6+ Rd7

Game all; dealer East

21 Qe8+ Rd8

22 Qe6+ 1/2-1/2

BRIDGE

SOUTH PLAYED his slam contract well on this deal - indeed, he had reached a winning position - but, right at the end, West found a crafty resource that persuaded declarer to go wrong.

East opened Three Hearts. South overcalled with Three Spades, and West raised to Four Hearts. Hoping for a favourable lead (or that the contract might prove a lay-down) North jumped direct to Six Spades. All passed, although West contemplated a sacrifice in Seven Hearts (which would have cost only 800 points unless South had found an unlikely diamond lead), and West led ♥10 against the slam.

there were only 11 tricks in sight, for it seemed sure that West held A. Then South saw a glimmer of light: if, indeed, West held #A and also length in diamonds, he might well be put under pressure. So declarer ruffed all of his heart losers on the table, coming back to hand with top trumps. Then he played off his remaining trumps.

With seven cards left. West still had to find two discards from **\$J** 982 AQ10. If he had parted with Portland St Tube), London. Sestwo clubs, then dummy would sions: today 5.30pm-11pm; Thurs come down to ♦ AKQ \$75 and a 12pm-4pm, 5.30pm-11pm; Fri low club from declarer's hand 12.30pm-6pm. Tickets at the door.

North **◆1097652** ∵none OAKQ4 **4**753 West East **∳**J3 **♦** none V1093 ♥AKJ7654 01982 01065 **AAQ** 109 **4**362 South ♥Q82 073 **♣**K84

Neither of North's wishes came would establish ♣K for his 12th true - the lead did not help, and trick. Thinking ahead. West saw the danger and parted with 02 and 💠 Q.

Convinced that West had started with five diamonds and that A was now bare, South led 44. To his chagrin he now lost two club tricks and found he had been in a position where he could have cashed four diamonds for his contract.

The Macallan International Pairs is at the White House Hotel (Gt

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

NOT ALL AMERICAN actors in their attempts at an English accent, but, as she proved in Sliding Doors and Emma (7pm Sky Moviemax), there is no faulting Gwyneth Paltrow we don't have a monopoly on posh women in period frocks, she sparkles in the title role of version of the durable romantic

of British actors - led by Jeremy have distinguished themselves Northam as the dishy Mr Knightly and featuring Alan Cumming, Greta Scacchi, Ewan McGregor, and Juliet Stevenson lend top-class support.

With her intriguing choice (right). While reminding us that of film roles - from Pulp Fiction to Gattaca - Uma Thurman stands apart from the Hollywood mainstream. She is profiled Douglas McGrath's enjoyable today in Femmes Fatales (1.30pm Sky Moviemax). JAMES RAMPTON



(1691488), 8.00 Arthur C Clerke's Mysteri-ous World (1168652), 8.30 Creatures Far-tastic (1152759), 9.00 Mysteries of the Ancients (9070730), 10.00 Sky Archaeology (9080117). **11.00** Ferrari (3533353). **12.00** Mysteries of the East (3684605). **1.00** History's Turning Points (4866624). 1.30 Flightline (9351315). 2.00 Close.

comedy by Jane Austen. A host

7.00 Count Duckuta (49117), 7.30 The Chris Evens Breakfast Show (33198), 8.30 Hollywood Squares (12914). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (22001). 10.00 The Oprah Jessy Faprise (2001): 10.00 The Opran Winfrey Show (57135). 11.00 Guilty! (37372). 12.00 Jerny Jones (60049). 1.00 Mad about You (48488). 1.30 Jeopardy (40285). 2.00 Saily Jessy Raphael (88858). 3.00 Jenny Jones (59489). 4.00 Guilty! (67204). 5.00 Star Tirsk: Deep Space Nine 10000. (9049). **6.00** Married with Children (6681). 6.30 Friends (7933). 7.00 The Simpsons (2038), 7.30 The Simpsons (3117), 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (89196), 9.00 The X Files (92662), 10.00 Naked in Westminster (32109), 11.00 Friends (62933), 11.30 Star Trek (27778). 12.30 Highlander (78570).

1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (5731624). SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1499169), 745 World (457989), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (4060440), 8.30 Hacing News (9251), 8.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (98833), 9.30 You're on Sky Sports (32865), 10.00 Total Sport (43489), 10.30 Inside Scottish Fool-bell (92556), 11.30 Fastrax (23961), 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (85469), 12.30 Pre-

mler Snooker League (41643), 2.30 World Windsurfing (1914), 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (17407). 4.00 Superbouts Antudermo vs Hagler (96914). 5.00 World Wrestling (8339). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (2643). **6.30** Unbelievable Sports (6223). 7.00 Pool (38488), 8.00 Ringside (50310), 9.30 Unbelievable Sports (23117), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (811943), 10.15 You're on Sky Sports (152198). **10.45** Pool (826914), 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (937177), 12.00 You're on Sky Sports (35179), 12.30 Ringside (22976), 2.00 Spanish Footbell - Live (49131), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (15556711), 4.15 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2 7.09 Aerobics - Oz Style (9454730). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (9958914), 7.45 Racing vs (8018020). **8.45** Fastrax (8796933). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (9873407), 9.00 Fish TV The Ultimate Fishing Show (6924952), 9.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (7462730), 10.00 World Windsurling (2266730), 10.30 Cricket (5006778), 1.00 World Motor Sport (7857858). 4.00 Premier Snooker League (3860339). 6.00 Wetersports (7481965). 7.00 Motorcycling (8494339), 8.00 Totalsport (3850952). 8.30 European Tour Weekly (3846759). 9.00 Ford Golf USA (8473846). 1L00 Cricket (8577846). 2.30 Second Innings (2020594). 3.00 - 6.30 Cricket (2235686). SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot-gun (68813138). 1.00 Fish TV The Utilmete Fishing Show (66083049). 1.20 Fish TV Fishing Tales (68893372). 2.00 Super-bouts Antuofermo v Hagler (13694391). 3.00 Olympic Series Road to Nagano 19334136). 3.30 Totalsport (42472196). 4.00 Fastrax (42484933). 4.30 Golf: LPGA Healthsouth Inaugural (77535933) 6.30 European Tour Weekly (42485662). 7.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (19326117). 7.30 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (42481846). 8.00 Spanish Football 408868651, 10.00 Sky Sports Classics 40865372). 11.00 The Entertainers (62921339). **11.30** Close.

ELIROSPORT 7.30 Rally (88020). 8.00 Tennis (7573469). 12.00 Tennis (2986830), 7.30 Football France v Morocco (553136). 10.00 Rally (42074), 10.30 Termis (26594), 11.30 Boxing (67049), 12.00-12.30 Relly (20247). UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (3733551). 7.30 Neighbours (9877310). 7.55 EastEnders (1715469), 8.30 The Bill (8166020), 9.00 The Bill (8157372). 9.30 The House of Eliott (2106575). 10.30 Rhoda (8153556). 11.00 Dallas (6571391). 11.55 Neighbours (98367339). 12.25 EastEnders (7274643). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (4646204). 2.00 Dallas (1786952), 2.55 The Bill (1206469), 3.25 The Sil (6426136), 3.55 EastEnders (3120339), 4.30 Rhoda (1692117), 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1158933). 6.00 Dynasty (4626440). 7.00 The Cornedy Alternative: May to December (9400662).

enting (6356730). 8.00 Barney and Friends (2554759). 8.30 Tiny Tales (7072730). 8-35 Tiny and Crew (8423440). 8.50 Practical Parenting (9932730), 9.00 Diet Show (2560310), 9.30 The Roseanne Show (3574196). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (6322643). 10.50 Maury Povich (5079310). 11.40 Brookside (56970952). 12.10 Animal Rescue (7461117), 12.40 Rescue 911 (13289204). 130 Special Ba-bies (23547643). 140 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (79112914). 2.10 LA Law (3168339). 3.40 Living Room (7087020). 4.00 Michael Cole (4681643), 4.50 Rolonda (9360317), 5.40 Raady, Steady, Cook (7315310), 6.45 The Jerry Springer Show (1510339). 7.05 Pleacue 911 (4700049). 7.35 Animal Rescue (9183469). 8.00 Murder Call (7124440). 9.00 Film: Saved by the Light (7134827). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (3287440). 12.00 Close.

9.00 Amelia Earhart: the Final Flight (1994) (40883778). **11.00** Operation Crossbow (1965) (77287665). **1.15** Shaft's Big Scorel (1972) (60356957). **2.00-5.00** Amelia Earnart: the Final Flight (1994) (51380696). PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (4010). 7.30 Grace under Fire (3579). 8.00 Rosearine (5730). 8.30 Newsradio (5865). 9.00 Cybii (83440). 9.30 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (21759). 10.00 Frasier (77440). 10.30 Cheers

(93488), 1L00 Seinfeld (95285), 1L30 The Larry Sanders Show (63223), 12.00 e Night with David Letterman (91976). 1.00 Taxi (69860), 1.30 The Critic (13179), 2.00 Dr Katz (56727), 2.30 Soap (88044), 3.00 Wings (89624), 3.30 Nightstand (86484), 4.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsins 6.30 (643).

BBC: SCOTLAND As BBC1 Lendes except: 2.55 Dotaman (3491759). 3.50 Dochalch Mor (Oekey Doke) (9733440). 6.00 News (391). 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weath-er (643). 9.30 One Foot in the Grane (12486). 10.00 Chewin' the Fat (75468). 10.30 Inside Story (425469). 11.25 The X Files (114049). 12.10 Film: Lust for Mutder (188624). 1.35 Joins BBC News

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (643). 10.15 The State (987846). 10.45 Inside Story (449952). 11.40 Film: Lust for Murder (667391). 1.05 Film: Moving Target (9788266). 2.35 Johns BBC News 24 (24473353).

As Cariton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (6744391). 1.00 Save Your Becon (91556). 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (2752933). 5.10 Shortland Street (7957402). 6.00 Home and Away

(588136), **6.25** Angila News (418914), **10.30** Angila News and Weather (632865), **10.40** Snooker Nations Cup (425372). **11.40** Crime Weekly (756204). 11.55 Tales from the Crypt (\$34001). 12.40 Film: Between Love and Hate (844150). 2.20 Master Class (9723686). 2.45 Judge Judy (45173). 4.15 Pure Lethal (3360421). 4.50 TV Nightscreen (31708632). 5.00 Coronation St (68668).

CENTRAL As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (6744381), 1.00 Echo Point (97556), 3.20 Central News (2752933), 5.10 Shortland Street (7557402), 6.00 Home and Away 8136), **6.25** Central News and Weather (418914). 10.30 Central News and Weather (532855), 11.43 Renegade (115827), 4.55 Jobfinder (8951082), 5.20 Asian Eye (4088957).

As Cariton excepts 10.30 This Moning (2490)575), 12.15 HTV News (9128643), 1.00 Shortland Street (91556), 3.20 HTV News (2752933). 5.10 A Country Practice (7957402). 6.00 Home and Away (588136). 6.25

Wales Tonight (#18914). 11.45 The Front Row (820198). 12.40 Film: Between Love and Hate (844150). 2.20 Master Class (9723686). 2.45 Judge Judy (45173). 4.15 Pure Lethal (3360421). 4.50 (TV Nightscreen (31708632). 5.00 Coronation Street (66666).

As HTV Wales except: 1.00 Next Stop... (91556). **6,25** HTV West Weathe (810372). **6.30** The West Tonight (339). 11.45 Renegade (820198). KERIDIAN

As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (249015/5). 12.15 Meridian News (9129643). 1.00 Shortland Street 79576), 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (2752935), 5.10 Home and Away (7957402), 5.37 Three Minutes (213310), 6.00 Meridian Tonight (759). 8.30 Birdwatch with Chris Packham (339). 10.30 Meridian News (832965) (339), YO.30 Mehdean News (63265), 11.45 Baywatch Nights (820198), 12.40 Film: Between Love and Hats (844150), 2.20 Master Class (9723686), 2.45 Judge Judy (45173), 4.16 Pure Lethal (3360421), 4.50 ITV Nightscrean (31708632), 5.00 Freescreen (66666). WESTCOUNTRY
As Cariton except: 10.30 This
Morning (24901575). 12.15 Westcountry
News (9128643), 12.27 Illuminations (6752310), 1.00 Emmerdale (91556), 3.20 Westcountry News (2752933 6.00 Westcountry Live (35339). 10.30 Westcountry News (632865), 11.45 Anatomy of Disaster (820198). 12.40 Film: Between Love and Hate (844150). 2.20 Master Class (9723686). 2.45 Judge Judy (45173). 4.15 Pure Lethal (3360421). 4.50 Nightscreen (31708632). 5.00 Coronation Street (66666).

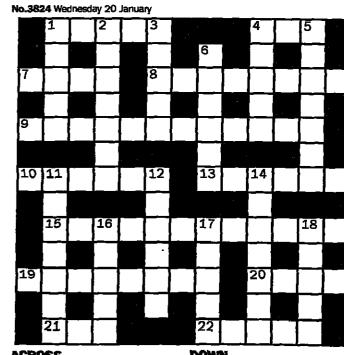
As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (6744391). LOO Emmerdale (91556). 3-20 Calendar News Headines (2752933). 5.40 News; Weather (583440). 5.55 Calendar Weaner (363440), 332 Cataline (176391), 6.30 Toright (339), 10.30 Calendar News (632655), 10.40 Snooker Nations Cup (425372), 11.40 Roar (300594), 4.15 Jobfinder (8783686).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North
East News and Weather (6760339).
12.25 Jobank (6752310). 3.20 North

East News Headlines (2752933), 5-55 North East Weather (200846), 6,00 North East Tonight (35339), 10-30 North East News and Weather (632865),

As Channel 4 except: 9.00 Ysgo-lion/Schools (10603391), 12.00 Be-witched (16349204), 12.30 Sesame Street (38347776), 1.00 Planed Plant (47761681), 1.30 Roots to Success (69612681), 1.45 Day of Thanks on Wal-ton Mountain (34023020), 4.30 Ricki ton Mountain (34023020), 4.30 Ricid Lake (56039204). 5.00 Planed Plant (64232074). 5.30 Countdown (56020556). 6.00 Newyddion (69909846). 6.40 Heno (95601643). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (86632830). 7.30 Newyddion (56030933). 8.00 Fiermio (68832038). 8.30 Pacio (83682335). 9.00 E R: Compilation of best bits from previous episodes (48520038). 10.00 Brookside: Sinbad naws the price for the symmetry he felt pays the price for the sympathy he felt for the Musgroves. Nikkl decides to face for the Musgroves. Nada decides to tabs the world, but experiences a distressing flashback (54888846). 10.35 E R (36164843). 11.30 The Mark Thomas Cornedy Product (35478865). 12.30 The Cornedy Lab (52804247). 12.30 Football Italia (64208599). 2.55 Transworld Sport (47711570). 3.55 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS Iron (5)

Pull along (3) Joint (4) Cross-country (8) Cut-and-dried situation (4.8) 10 Timber problem (3.3) 13 Hand in notice (6) 15 Fairground attractions (7.5)

19 Trite (8) 20 Animal fat (4) 22 Late (5)

21 Old cloth meaure (3)

DOWN

1 Large black-and-white animal German prince (7) Greek philosopher (5) Flower (5) Lacking (7) Diversion (6) Accept (7) Public address system (6) 14 Academic (7) 16 Fish basket (5) 17 Item of belief (5) 18 Before time (5)

Solution to yesterday's Conclee Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Odic. 4 Alone (Ear de Cologne), 9 Aloha, 10 Grumble, 11 Oklahoma, 12 Prod. 13 Swimming pools, 17 John, 18 Calculus, 21 Timpani, 32 Ingle, 23 Nurse, 24 Hall. DOWN: 2 Droll, 3 Chatham, 4 Argumentative, 5 Onus, 6 Embargo, 7 Famous, 8 Mend, 14 Inhuman, 15 Peckish, 16 System, 17 Jute, 19 Legal, 20 Pair.

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Foreign Pre



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

Still, it's a creditably smart and efficient place of engineering, and I probably ought to idmit to taking a sneaky, normainer pleasure from it. The torylines push the plausibility out a little too far, perhaps, and the writers are too ready stoop to cliché (week two, or alive ward sister are having issed conversations about by she wouldn't have taken in job if she'd known he as working there). What's teresting, though, is how far in plots revoive around smart-sed, over-ambitious young actors being put in their place people who may not be so ever; but know more about a Cocky surgical registrarick Jordan inadvertently shed up a row between a rainal patient's children and air stepmother; and was put his place by the new ward iter. Meanwhile, academical-bright Trans-man-stall and academical-

ed to get away but he is a are too brief to make the chuicalities penetrable. My wondered if the producers ally respected the viewers' telligence, particularly ten the commentary felt it exessary to refer to "the gilan Fascist, Mussolini".

This was compensated for ough, by the codebreakers

cumentary. Trauma Team, it in the accident and emerst in the accident and emersucy department of the John adelifie hospital in Oxford, adelifie hospital once the account once the control on

London used to be, I call this," says a young porter at Billingsgate fish market – in full cry at five in the morning. It's only when the camera pans away to the slate-grey dawn that you realise that the market is stuck out in the empty wasteland behind Canary Wharf in the Docklands. Nell Grant's documentary soon finds itself seduced by two larger than-life characters – Roger (self-styled "bastard of Billingsgate"), a seasoned fish trader who works as a dog-track bookle in the evenings, and Tony, millionaire owner of Bank restaurant, who

BBC

News; Weather (T) (391).

Regional News (T) (843)

Dream House. Carol Vorderman explains why all houses will one day come with grassed roofs. Plus, Adam Woodyatt tests the latest microwave ovens (827).

8-50 The National Lottery Draw (S) (T) (859001). News; Regional News; Weather Battersea Dogs' Home. Finished supper? Good. A pregnant mongrei has a Caesarean delivery (5) (860310) (T) (2339).

The X-Files. First haif of a two-part story. Mulder and Scully search for answers to a series of horrific mass killings where the victims have been burned alive (S) (T) (887866).

12.35 IIIM Moving Target (Chris Thomson 1988 US).

Jason Betemen returns from holidey to find that his family ig the hint, he (2755583). To 2.05am

6.00 Business Breakfast (503 9.00 Kliroy (S) (T) (8445469 (S) (T) (5818339). 10.55 New (T) (7777833). 11.00 Real Ro Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (

Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (2520894), 3.45 Little Monsters (S) (8852865), 3.50 ChuckleVision (S) (T) (8869827), 4.10 See It Saw It (S) (T) (3584579), 4.35 The Wild House (S) (T) (1493001), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (5230730), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (6370285).

ather than imposed by conciltions. It didn't this week's opening segan on such a sal note, with a man had his arm bitten off and, unscripted, gave er "tigers" when

Changing Rooms. A couple from Catford get some "Miami glamour" in their living room. Presumably, they don't mean coke dealers and car-jackers (9376).

ELICIDE Inside Story: Fish Tales. Meet the characters who inhabit Billingsgate fish market. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (190049).

11:10 IIII Lust for Murder (Nathanial Gutman 1993 U.S). Virginia Madsen is one of the stock femmes fatales of the neo-film noirs of the early 1990s. In this thriller she plays a wife who persuades her husband to go on

DOCUMENTARY OF THE

DAY

BBC2

and Co (R) (S) (368236). **7.55** The Really Wild Show (S) (T) (2006778). **8.20** Taz-Mania (R) (963656). **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (S) (8915339). **8.50** Brum (8904223). **9.00** Images of Skye (S) (7831594). **9.10** What? Wher? Wher? Why? (S) (7811730). **9.25** The Art (S) (8263310). **9.45** Words and Pictures (S) (8018846). **10.00** Telefubbles (R) (S) (80339). **10.30** Numbertime (S) (5877730). **10.48** Cats! Eyes (S) (5672286). **11.00** Around Scotland (S) (1239594). **11.20** The Geography Programme (S) (T) (826675). **11.40** Solence in Action (S) (T) (2008173). **12.00** Shorts in Action (S) (T) (2008173). Programme (S) (T) (6256575), **11.40** Solence ir (S) (T) (2088117), **12.00** Spanish Magazine (S) (4756865), **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin (S) (9131117).

Tales from the Riverbank. Geoffrey Palmer measure giant pike (R) (S) (T) (469).

Coronation Street. Sally makes a shocking discovery (T) (223).

7.50

Emmerdale. After yesterday's hundinger of an episode, Zoe learns the bitter truth and Steve faces justice. And will Chris survive his crowning from Kim? (S) (T) (6556).

7.00 Channel 4 News, Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (193488).

7.00 S News, Including First on Five. National and international news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (6032758)

6.30 Family Affairs. Dave visits Nick in hospital and confesses his love for Holly. Serge is puzzled by Mariab revelation that she is pregnant by him (S) (T) (5973204).

7.30

(S) (T) (8778).

9.00 Mersey Blues. There is a turf war between rival drugs gangs in the continuing and already controversial Merseyside police force docu-soap, inspector Gary Watson puts together a special task force to combat the

10,30 Newsnight. With Jeremy Paxman (T) (333952).

t**ure This: Vyvyan's Hotel.** Documentary about a xer sufferer's desire to refurbish her hotel (S) (974372).

11.45 10 x 10: Mangetout, lan Cottage's film about a boy's great uncle who begins eating everything (S) (768049).

Master Class (5713063), 2.55 Judge Judy (6622792), 3.15 Trisha (R) (S) (T) (156605), 4.15 ITV Nightscreen (6783686), 5.30 News (38228), To 6am.

Carlton

9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (3334865). **10.30** This Morning (T) (65020962). **12.20** Your Shout (6744391). **12.30** News; Weather (T) (10020). **1.00** London Today (T) (91556).

Working Lunch (23594). 1.00 Brum (73449914). 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2264556). 2.10 Indoor Bowis (22885852). 2.40 News; Weather (8728117). 2.45 Westminster (6619814). 3.55 News; Regional News; Weather (8353049). 4.00 Indoor Bowis (S) (1469).

6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer. TV spabout the adventures of a 16-year-old (by Sarah Michelle Gellar) who fights to supernatural evil. Buffy dates a boy where exciting lifestyle (S) (T) (948865).

1**0.30 L**ondon Tonight (T) (632865)

10.40 Snooker Nations Cup, Highlights of the Nations Cup clash between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, presented by Russ Williams (5738372).

she tries to end their relationship. With Patrick Van Horn (843421).

5**.40** News; Weather (T) (246407).

5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (7957402).

Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (2742556), 3,35 Teddybears (8291778), 3,45 Jumanji (R) (T) (8200488), 4,40 Whizziwig (T) (8346759), 4,40 Mad for it (7878391),

. 36

(HIDIN] Qood Morning, Miss Dove (Henry Koster 1855 US). Terminally III New England schoolteacher Jennifer Jones looks back over her life. See *Film of the Day*, below (20834759).

ITN News Headlines (T) (2755020). **3,20** London Today (T) (2752933).

Snooker Nations Cup. Teams from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland play each other in today's match (1) (65237407).

9.00 Channel 4 Schools: French Express (624717), Schools at Work (7079759). 9.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (801 9.45 Book Box (8003914). 10.00 Stage Two Scien (9225952). 10.45 All about Us (9215575). 10.30 Ch Hopping (3987310). 10.50 Stop. Look, Listen (2499 11.00 First Edition VI (6247827). 11.15 Tackling Technology (6260778).

(S) (T) (9761952). 7.30 Milkshekei (S) (6257335). 7.35 Wimzles House (R) (9492865). 8.40 Havakazoo (R) (S) (1832556). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (R) (S) (183827). 9.00 Hot Property (R) (S) (T) (185407). 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6284001). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2893049). 11.10 Leaza (R) (S) (2779575). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (1835643). 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (9601372). 1.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (9760223). 1.30 The Roseenne Show (R) (S) (9800643). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (5021643). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (4220407).

Sesame Street (76310). **7.00** The Big Breakfast (29339).

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11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8914), 12.00 Sesame Street (90778), 12.30 Bewitched (18662), 1.00 Pet Rescue (R) (S) (T) (99198), 1.30 Earthscape (79845914).

3.30

BIRM Joe Dancer - the Monkey Mission (Burl Brinkerhoff 1991 US). Enjoyably silly yarn in which Robert Blake's private eye enlists the help of an organ grinder (who is also a professional thief) and his monkey in order to break into a supposedly burglar-proof museum (9304198).

5.00 Tennis - the Australian Open. Highlights of the second round of the men's singles (S) (1001).

Star Trek - The Next Generation. After suffering a total memory blackout, the crew of the Enterprise come to the mistaken conclusion that they are at war (R) (S) (T) (511440).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (T) (756).

6.00 Late Lunch with Mei and Sue (26881).

6.00 100 Per Cent (S) (5982952).

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (117). 4.00 Fifteen to One (S) (952). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (1487440). 4.55 Rickl Lake (S) (4505198). 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (488).

5.20

Sunset Beach. Annie refuses to tell Maria about the night she disappeared (S) (1) (6853827).

London Bridge. Capital soap, A purposeful Auntle Meena returns to the Milhouse (S) (339).

8.00 Battle of the Sexes. Such is the pressure become a father in the animal kingdom that me kltchen/diner (S) (T) (7285)

vs; Weather (1) (93865)

11.45 Midnight Caller (15827).

10.55 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product. Zzzaire (203372).

The Comedy Leb (74391), 12.00 Boardstupid Goes Sking (R) (28841), 12.30 Football Italia (542711), 3.00 Transworld Sport (4238957), 3.55 Kabaddi (14059886), 4.25 Sonja Henie – an Intimate Portrait of the Queen of Ice (R) (1228452), 8.25 The Pink Panther (5844421), 8.45 The Magic Roundabout (7691599), 5.50 Animal

10.00 Gelebrity ER. And this is the one in which Nurse Hathaway is taken hostage after a grocery-store robbery goes wrong. Ewan McGregor guest-stars as a young criminal (193136).

9.00 Celebrity ER. The second of three double bills of the US medical sage begins with this episode directed by Quentin Tarantino, which is enough said for me (I vowed never to watch anything by Tarantino after the screamingly boring Pulp Fiction). It's the one where Dr Lewis treats her substance-abusing sister (R) (S) (3933).

9.00

Student Josh Charles of

one where Dr r (R) (S) (3933).

8.00 Brookside. Nikki decides to face the world, but experiences a distressing flashback. And Susannah is the proud mother of a baby girl (S) (T) (3846).

8.00 Wing and a Prayer. Batta-nominated legal drama series set in the north of England. Yasmin represents teenager accused of blinding his girlfriend in one eye. Simon defends an old man charged with robbery (T) (5200556).

Music of the Millennium. Safron, Republicas frontwoman, picks her favourite song of all lime (7) (722198).

7.30

Champions of the Wild. A project which has helped to restore many indigenous species to an area of West Airica which has lost most of its wildlife (S) (5979488).

8.30 The Best of the Real Holiday Show. As it says on the packet (R) (T) (5681).

12.45 ITM Between Love and Hate (Rod Hardy 1993 US). A shy college student is seduced by a wealthy socialite who becomes alarmed by his behaviour when she tries to end their relationship. With Susan Lucci and

BLOOD ON THE CARP series on business feuds of what happened when for Greenfield (right) launch e course, set up an ice-cream making vianist) in Vermont, and then decided to s. But the mighty Häagen-Dazs – part which also included Burger King – was if-space with the median included. APPET (9.50pm BBC2) This absorbing dis continues with the story of former hippies Ben Cohen and Jerry nehed their fluity ice-creams onto the y taught themselves ice-cream making









FILM OF THE DAY

kindly schoolnistress whose good deeds are revealed in flashback as she recovers from a serious illness might seem like a strange choice for one of the most tempestious actresses to have come out of Hollywood. But although Jennifer Jones (right) is mostly remembered for her more build roles – Pearl Chavaz in Duel in the Sun, for example, or her visionary peasant girl in The Song of Bernadette – It was often the quieter films which really suited her talents. The



Strange Luck (S) (9467020), **12.26** ice Hockey: Detroit Red Wings vs Calgary Flames (S) (46476537). **4.40** Club Class (R) (7237112). To 5.05am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

Yelland was really on the ball, he would do just that, Anyway, it's not Mel tonight, but Gall Porter, and she's chatting to some English rugby players and the McGann brothers (S) (3117310).